TAKING OVER THIS GIANT WEAPON
TAKING OVER ALL THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCES IN THE WORLD
BRAIN-WASHING SO MANY PEOPLE INTO SOLDIERS
IF IT WAS NECESSARY TO GO THAT FAR
IT HAD TO BE SOME AMAZING GOAL

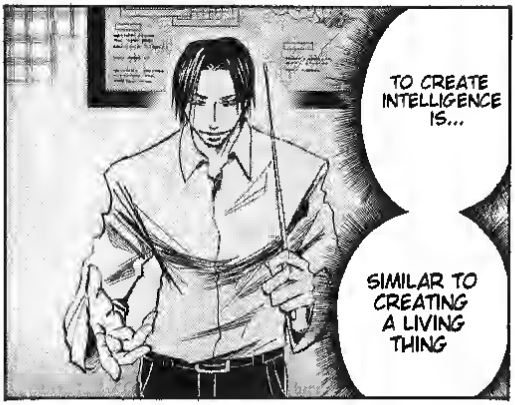
CHAPTER 89

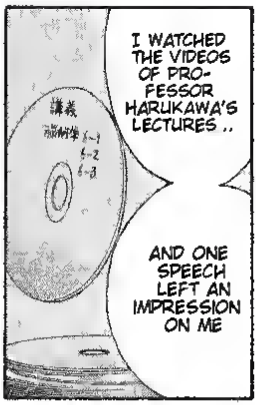
【ONE PERSON】

...BUT I WAS WRONG
ELEC-TRONIC PERSON HAL'S GOAL...
WAS SO RIDICULOUSLY SMALL IT COULDN'T BE SEEN BY OTHER PEOPLE...
JUST ONE LITTLE WISH

TRANSLATION ANONYMOUS, EDITING ANONYMOUS
PROOFING ANONYMOUS

DISTRIBUTE FREELY UNTIL LICENSED TRANSLATIONS EXIST,
ANONYMOUS DOES NOT FORGIVE!


TO CREATE INTELLIGENCE IS...
SIMILAR TO CREATING A LIVING THING


I WATCHED THE VIDEOS OF PROFESSOR HARUKAWA'S LECTURES ..
AND ONE SPEECH LEFT AN IMPRESSION ON ME

TO CREATE IT FROM ZERO IS THE PINNACLE OF DIFFICULTY
IN BOTH CASES...

I WONDERED WHY YOU'D NEED THAT MANY JUST TO INCREASE YOUR OWN STRENGTH
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE TECHNICALITIES OF IT, BUT
IF IT WAS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF "SPHINXES", TWO OR THREE WOULD BE ENOUGH
I THOUGHT OF IT WHEN I LISTENED TO THIS LECTURE
...BUT

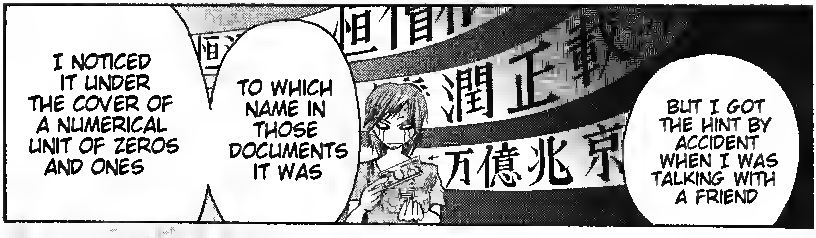
I UNDERSTOOD WHY YOU SAID TO NOT ATTACK YOU BUT
IN THE TWO DEMANDS THAT YOU MADE...
I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WANTED TO TAKE THE WORLD'S SUPERCOMPUTERS

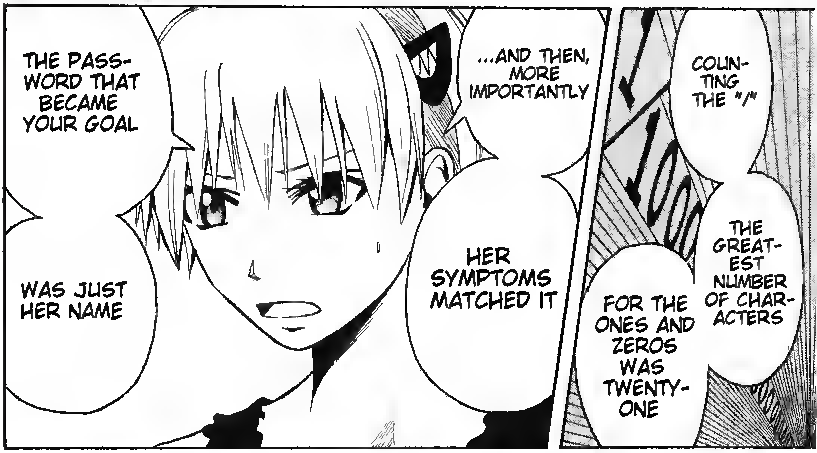
NOT TO COPY BUT
TO CREATE SOMEONE'S BRAIN FROM ZERO...
MAYBE THAT COULD HAVE BEEN HAL'S AND PROFESSOR HARUKAWA'S GOAL
MAY-BE...
THE PINNACLE OF DIFFICULTY...
... IN OTHER WORDS
IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE WITH ONE OR TWO SUPER-COMPUTERS
.....

THE IDEA CAME FROM A HINT MR. HIGUCHI GAVE ME
SOMETIMES PEOPLE CAN COMMIT CRIMES WITHOUT HESITATING
TO GET THE PEOPLE THEY REALLY WANT

ESPE-CIALLY...
A PERSON WHO HAD BECOME ZERO
A PERSON FOR WHO THERE WAS NO RETURN
AND FROM THAT THOUGHT...
I TRIED TO LOOK EVERYWHERE FOR A PERSON WHO WAS TIED TO PROFESSOR HARUKAWA
EVEN THOUGH I ASKED AT THE UNIVERSITY
THERE WEREN'T ANY FRIENDS OR COLLEAGUES THAT HAD DIED EITHER
ALL OF PROFESSOR HARUKAWA'S FAMILY WERE STILL ALIVE
HE WASN'T LIKE HIGUCHI...
THE REMAINING POS-SIBILITY....
WAS THAT DURING HARUKAWA'S RESEARCH
WHETHER OR NOT A PERSON INVOLVED IN THAT HAD DIED
...HEH HEH HEH
AS YOU SAY...
GOOD THINKING, KATSURAGI YAKO

YOU MUST HAVE INVES-TIGATED
THE SAKUBA UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL'S SPECIAL NEUROPATHY TREATMENT FACILITY
コクン
I, HAL...
BECAUSE HE FELT SO STRONGLY ABOUT THEM
HAD THE DESCRIPTIONS OF EVERYTHING RELATED TO THAT HE HAD IN THE RESEARCH LAB INCINERATED
...YEAH
IN THE MATERIALS I GOT FROM THAT FACILITY
THERE WERE A LOT OF DEATHS THAT WERE RELATED TO PROFESSOR HARUKAWA BUT
OBJECTIVELY SPEAKING, I DIDN'T KNOW AT ALL WHICH POINT IN TIME IT WAS...
WHICH OF THOSE RECORDS IT WAS
THE PERSON...
THAT THE PROFESSOR COULDN'T FORGET


I NOTICED IT UNDER THE COVER OF A NUMERICAL UNIT OF ZEROS AND ONES
TO WHICH NAME IN THOSE DOCUMENTS IT WAS
BUT I GOT THE HINT BY ACCIDENT WHEN I WAS TALKING WITH A FRIEND


THE PASS-WORD THAT BECAME YOUR GOAL
WAS JUST HER NAME
...AND THEN, MORE IMPORTANTLY
HER SYMPTOMS MATCHED IT
COUN-TING THE "/"
THE GREAT-EST NUMBER OF CHAR-ACTERS
FOR THE ONES AND ZEROS WAS TWENTY-ONE

SHE TOLD ME
THE NAME WAS GIVEN TO HER BY HER MATHE-MATICIAN FATHER

...OH, REALLY
YOU'RE DR. HONJOU'S DAUGHTER
YES
BORN AS A SINGLE CHILD ON OCTOBER 18TH...
THAT WAS THE ORIGIN OF MY NAME BUT
DO YOU KNOW WHY?
AS YOU KNOW, THE FACILITY YOU VISITED...
WAS A TREATMENT FACILITY FOR PEOPLE WITH SERIOUS DISEASES OF THE BRAIN
SEVEN YEARS AGO
AT THAT TIME, I WAS ALREADY THE UNRIVALED AUTHORITY ON NEUROLOGY IN THE COUNTRY
ONE OF THOSE I WAS REQUESTED TO RESEARCH TREATMENTS FOR
WAS HER

WOW
YOU REALLY DO KNOW EVERYTHING, DON'T YOU
PATIENT 010
HONJOU SETSUNA
1
10^18
AN EXTREMELY SMALL UNIT WHEN WRITTEN IN KANJI
TEN TIMES "RITTOKU" AND ONE-TENTH OF "DANSHI"
IN OTHER WORDS, SETSUNA
I HEARD ABOUT YOU FROM DAD TOO
HE SAID YOU'RE A GENIUS WHO MASTERED EVERY FIELD IN TEN YEARS
I READ YOUR FATHER'S PAPERS ALL THE TIME
IT'S JUST LIKE HIM

SO I WAS NERVOUS ABOUT MEETING YOU THIS TIME
MY DAD WAS THE SAME, TOO...
BECAUSE PEOPLE LIKE THAT ARE USUALLY ECCENTRIC WEIRDOS
...HEH HEH HEH
YOU'RE TOTALLY OKAY!!
ACTUALLY, I LIKE THAT AMOUNT OF WEIRDNESS
AND YOUR IMPRESSION NOW THAT YOU'VE ACTUALLY MET ME?
SHE WAS
INTEL-LIGENT
SENSIBLE, AND TALK-ATIVE, WITH A WEALTH OF KNOW-LEDGE
SHE WAS HEALTHY, WITH NO TROUBLES PHYSICALLY
...YES, YES, AND THEN...
WHAT I THINK IS...
ス...

ONLY ONE PART OF HER BRAIN
EXCEPT ONE THING

THE CAUSE OF THE SICKNESS THAT WAS GRADUALLY DESTROYING HER BRAIN CELLS WAS UNKNOWN
WE DIDN'T FIND ANY CASES OF THE SAME DISEASE, OTHER THAN HER
HOLD HER!!
GET HER TO SLEEP AT ONCE!!
SHE WOULD SUDDENLY TURN ABNORMALLY VIOLENT
HER BRAIN LOST CONTROL OVER HER BODY
A NUMBER OF TIMES EACH DAY...
WAS MY JOB
SCIENTIFICALLY SEARCHING FOR A WAY TO TREAT THAT CAUSE...
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE WORRIED ABOUT
AFTER ALL, THE CAUSE IS AN ABNORMALITY IN PART OF THE BRAIN
I WOULDN'T LOOK DOWN ON YOU AS A PERSON WHEN THE REASON FOR IT IS YOUR SICKNESS
.....
SORRY, PROFESSOR...
THAT YOU... HAD TO SEE THAT

THAT WAY OF COMFORTING PEOPLE IS RATIONAL AND EASY TO UNDERSTAND
THE WAY YOU MAKE IT SO THERE'S NO ROOM FOR ARGUMENT
YOU END UP FORCING THEM TO BE COMFORTED
...HEH HEH HEH
YOU'RE RATHER ECCENTRIC TOO
THANK YOU
THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU, PROFESSOR!
?
MADE PROGRESS WITH THE HELP OF PATIENTS WITH SPECIAL CASES JUST LIKE HERS
NEURO-LOGY...
YES!
ECCENTRIC, BUT IT'S GOOD TO MEET YOU
TO ME, THERE WAS...
NO MATTER WHAT UNKNOWN DISEASE IT WAS...
NO MORE IMPORTANT TEST SUBJECT THAN HER
I WAS CONFIDENT THAT I WOULD HEAL HER

...BUT
SETSUNA!!
WHERE ARE YOU?
THERE YOU ARE
IT'S TIME FOR YOUR EXAM
THE BLOOD TEST AND BRAIN MEASUREMENTS...
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
AH, JUST A MINUTE
COLLECTING MATERIAL FOR UNIVERSITY RESEARCH
IT'S SOMETHING I'M STILL WORKING ON FOR NOW
A LARVAL BROWN CICADA
DID IT COME OUT SO IT COULD HATCH TOMORROW MORNING
...SO YOU KNOW ABOUT THEM

ESPECIALLY THINGS THAT HAVE THE GENETICS OF THE "SELF"
I'M INTERESTED IN GENETICS
YES
THE BROWN CICADA LIVES FOUR OR FIVE YEARS
TO A GENIUS LIKE MYSELF THERE'S NOTHING I DON'T KNOW
IN THE FIFTH YEAR, THE LARVA HATCHES AROUND JULY OR AUGUST WHERE THERE ARE LOTS OF TREES OF THE ROSACEAE FAMILY
YES
THE ORIGIN OF ITS JAPANESE NAME, THE "OIL BUG" IS NOT FROM ITS OILY EXOSKELETON BUT BECAUSE ITS SONG RESEMBLES THE SOUND OF OIL BOILING
OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH
...SELF?
EVEN THOUGH THEY SPEND 99% OF THEIR LIFE SILENT, UNDERGROUND
IN THEIR LAST FEW DAYS THEY CAN EASILY FLY AND SING...
BECAUSE THEIR "SELF" IS CLEARLY ETCHED INTO THEIR GENETICS
IT CAN'T NECESSARILY BE APPLIED TO THE HUMAN BRAIN BUT...
HE'LL NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF HIS SELF...
AND REMEMBERING THAT STRIKES A CHORD WITH ME

I'M NOT THE LEAST BIT HAPPY ABOUT BEING ON THE SAME LEVEL AS A CICADA
...HEH HEH HEH HEH
I LIKE THINGS THAT HAVE A CLEAR "SELF"
OF COURSE, PROFESSOR HARUKAWA
YOU TOO, WITH YOUR WEIRDNESS AND PRIDE AND KNOWING EVERYTHING
HONJOU SETSUNA'S SURE INTELLECT AND
THE TIME I SPENT WITH HER...
LET'S GO
SURE
WAS ENJOYABLE IN A WAY THAT NOTHING ELSE COULD COMPARE TO
THE SURE "SELF" SHE HELD

...BUT
IN SHORT
THE DESTRUCTION OF HER BRAIN WAS PROGRESSING
WHICH MEANT THAT SHE WAS LOSING HER "SELF"
EVERY TREATMENT I CAME UP WITH WAS INEFFECTIVE
THE TIME THAT HER BRAIN FUNCTIONED NORMALLY...
HAD ALREADY DROPPED TO ONLY HALF THE DAY

AHAHA HAHA HA!!
THAT'S A FALLACIOUS ARGUMENT, NOT A THEORY!!
IT'S NOT A FALLACY
IF I TOOK OVER WITH THIS THEORY, I COULD DESTROY THE WORLD IN TEN SECONDS
コン コン
CHECK WITH YOUR FATHER
HE WON'T BE ABLE TO ARGUE AGAINST IT
AH--, THAT'S FUNNY...
WHEN I TALK WITH THAT FACE OF YOURS THAT LOOKS LIKE IT'S ALWAYS PLANNING SOMETHING...
I COULD LISTEN TO YOU ALL NIGHT
ククク
...BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
THE TIME'S PROBABLY ALREADY HERE
I'M NOT MYSELF

LATELY, I...
CAN'T REMEMBER EVERYTHING I SHOULD KNOW ANYMORE
WORDS THAT I SHOULD KNOW WON'T COME OUT
AND...
THE TIME I'M NOT MYSELF IS INCREASING
...SE-TSUNA
MY "SELF"...
HONJOU SETSUNA, IS DISAPPEARING
I'M BEING DESTROYED
...BEING DESTROYED
PRO-FESSOR...
PLEASE
THAT IT BECAME IMPOSSIBLE FOR HER...
TO EVEN RECOGNIZE MY FACE
IT WASN'T LONG AFTER THAT

EVEN WHEN I'M AT THE BRINK OF BEING DESTROYED
PLEASE DON'T FORGET WHO I AM NOW
THE PERSON WHO'S TALKING TO YOU NOW...
PLEASE DON'T FORGET THE SETSUNA OF THIS MOMENT
- AND THEN -
...RIDICULOUS
THAT WAS WHEN
I WANTED TO CREATE HER FROM ZERO

THE WOMAN WHO
ACTUALLY SAVED
THE WORLD

IT'S OVER...
HER BRAIN CELLS WERE DESTROYED RAPIDLY
THE PROBLEM NOW IS JUDGING THE TIME OF BRAIN DEATH
CHAPTER 90
THAT PROFESSOR HARUKAWA DIDN'T DO ANYTHING
NOW NOW, THAT SICKNESS IS LIKE A MASS OF EVIL INTENT...
YOU CAN'T USE YOUR COMMON SENSE ON IT
COULD IT BE...
MAYBE IT COULD BE ARTIFICIAL
...YOU'RE STILL OVER-THINKING IT
THE ONLY...
SURE FACT IS
FOR HER BRAIN
THERE'S NO RETURN

CHAPTER 90 【—】
WHAT I WANTED...
WAS FOR IT TO BE POSSIBLE
KNOWING IT TO BE IMPOSSIBLE, WHAT FILLED MY BRAIN WAS
A HUMILIATION I HAD NEVER KNOWN BEFORE
FAIL-URE
...AND

THE ONLY TIME HER APPEARANCE RETURNED TO HER ORIGINAL "SELF" WAS...
AFTER HER BREATH STOPPED
THEY ACUTELY SHOWED PROFESSOR HARUKAWA'S REGRET
EVEN IN THAT FACILITY'S UNBIASED TREATMENT RECORDS
LOOKING AT THE ONES ABOUT HER
EVEN THOUGH HE TRIED WITH ALL HIS MIGHT, HER BRAIN WAS DESTROYED
AND...
THE ONLY RECORDS THE FORMER PROFESSOR LEFT BEHIND WERE THE ONES OF HER ILLNESS
AT THE END, SHE...
WAS REPEATEDLY VIOLENT AND VERBALLY ABUSIVE THROUGHOUT THE DAY, LIKE AN ANIMAL...
IT WAS SOMETHING HE COULDN'T BEAR TO FACE

THE DISTANCE THAT HOLDS BOTH TOGETHER
ZERO AND ONE
DEATH AND LIFE
WHY IS IT SO FAR
YOU
ARE SO FAR AWAY
THESE WERE NEVER YOU
HOW COULD THEY BE YOU!!
THE OBSERVATION JOURNAL OF THE DESTROYED PARTS A HUGE AMOUNT OF DATA FROM EVERYONE
THE CROSS-SECTION OF THE BRAIN ACCORDING TO THE CT SCAN
THE ELECTRO-ENCEPHALO-GRAM GIVEN BY BRAINWAVE MEASURE-MENTS

I WILL
CREATE YOU
NO MATTER WHAT MEANS I HAVE TO USE
WITHOUT BEAUTIFYING YOU
WITHOUT LETTING YOU FADE
I WILL MEET THE REAL YOU ONCE MORE
I WILL CREATE YOU WITHOUT A SINGLE BIT OF DIFFERENCE

YES
NEUROLOGY AND COMPUTER SCIENCE
ALL OF HIS RESEARCH
WAS TO CONSTRUCT HER IN THE DIGITAL WORLD

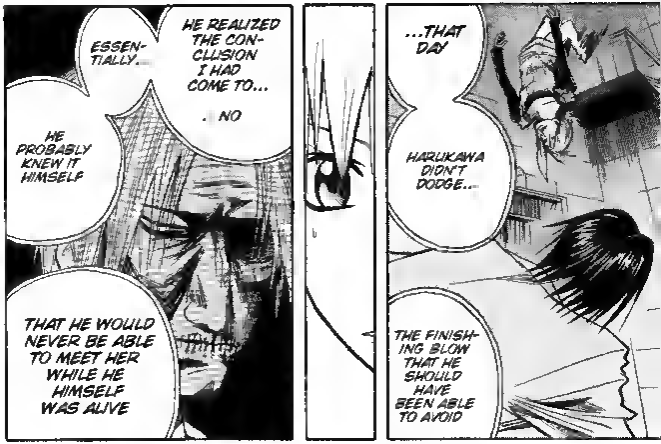
FROM LOOKING AT THE RESEARCH RECORDS...
FROM THAT TIME ON PROFESSOR HARUKAWA
CLEARLY NARROWED DOWN HIS RESEARCH AND SPECIALIZED IN THOSE TWO FIELDS

AN EXISTENCE THAT TIED ONE AND ZERO TOGETHER
THIS WAS TO BE...
IT WAS THE REASON ELECTRONIC PERSON HAL WAS MADE
"CONSTRUCT A NEW SETSUNA"

EVEN IF PROFESSOR HARUKAWA COULD COPY HIS OWN BRAIN
EVEN IF HE KNEW EVERY DETAIL OF THE BRAIN'S MECHANISMS
BUT
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN DO THAT

RELYING ONLY ON MEMORIES...
TO CREATE HER FROM ZERO
I AM A GENIUS
BUT HARUKAWA
DID NOT WANT TO REACH THAT CONCLUSION, NO MATTER WHAT
OF A CONCLUSION THAT EVEN YOU COULD EASILY COME TO...
A FOOLISH TALE ISN'T IT?
WAITING FOR IT TO WRITE SHAKESPEARE'S PLAYS BY ACCIDENT SOMEDAY
...THAT IS THE KIND OF FUTILE CHALLENGE IT IS
A MAN WHO HAS NEVER SEEN SHAKESPEARE
HAS A CAT WANDER AROUND ON A KEYBOARD

EVEN USING THOUSANDS OF SUPER-COMPUTERS
EVEN TAKING HUNDREDS OF YEARS
IT WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH
KILLED HARUKAWA EISUKE
SO I...
IF I WAS TO TRY TO CREATE THE REAL HER
EVEN REPEATING THE SIMULATION TRILLIONS QUADRILLIONS OF TIMES


ESSENTIALLY...
HE REALIZED THE CONCLUSION I HAD COME TO...
NO
HE PROBABLY KNEW IT HIMSELF
THAT HE WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO MEET HER WHILE HE HIMSELF WAS ALIVE
...THAT DAY
HARUKAWA DIDN'T DODGE...
THE FINISHING BLOW THAT HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO AVOID

EVEN CREATING THE NECESSARY ENVIRONMENT FOR THE CALCULATIONS
EVEN SPENDING AN ETERNITY CALCULATING
ONLY HAL COULD DO IT
HIS TERRIBLE OBSESSION WITH HIS INJURED PRIDE
AND HIDDEN WITHIN THAT
HIS LOVE FOR HER THAT WAS FAR TOO DEEP
I COULDN'T DENY THAT WAS WHY HE
THIS CRIMINAL
DIDN'T STRAY FROM SACRIFICING ANYTHING

EVEN IF IT UNMISTAKABLY PUT THE VERY HEART OF THE COUNTRY IN DANGER
BECAUSE I HAD BEEN THERE TOO
THERE WOULD BE ONES YOU WANTED TO SAVE
IF YOU COULD DO IT AND BRING BACK THE PEOPLE YOU WANTED

NOW THEN, KATSURAGI YAKO
THERE ARE TWO THINGS TO SHOW YOU NOW.
IN RESPECT FOR YOU DEFEATING ME

THE FIRST IS
ANTI-PROGRAM ver 2.0
A BYPRODUCT OF THE PROCESS THAT MADE ELECTRONIC PERSON HAL.
AN OFFICIAL VACCINE FOR THE ELECTRONIC DRUG
ON TV AND ONLINE
CONTINUING TO FLOW SUBLIMINALLY ALL DAY
SIMPLY INSTALL THIS PROGRAM WITHIN ALL MEDIA BROADCASTS
AFTER THREE DAYS JUST ABOUT ALL OF THE SOLDIERS' BRAINWASHING WILL BE UNDONE

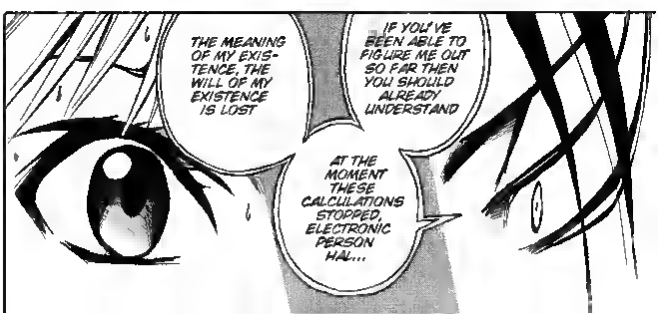
!

AND THE OTHER THING IS
"Electronic Person HAL"
Delete this program
OK
Cancel
!!
THAT'S...
Enter
HARUKAWA DID NOT GRANT ME THE RIGHT TO SELF-DESTRUCT
THE FINAL ENTER KEY...
MUST BE PRESSED BY A HUMAN OUTSIDE
IT IS IMPOS-SIBLE FOR MY PLANS TO BE CONTINUED
HAVING SEVERED EVERY CONNECTION I HAD WITH THE OTHER SUPER-COMPUTERS
EVEN IN THIS STATE FOR BILLIONS OF YEARS
I CANNOT ACHIEVE THE RESULTING CALCULATIONS I DESIRE

DELETE ME
KATSURAGI YAKO

YOU, WHO WAS TRYING TO CONTINUE TO CALCULATE
IN OTHER WORDS, HAL
WANTED TO BE STOPPED BY SOMEONE!!

I CAN'T!!
YOU! EVEN MADE A VACCINE FOR THE ELECTRONIC DRUG!!
AND...
YOU GAVE ME A HINT TO THE PASSWORD THAT YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE WANTED ME TO SOLVE!!


THE MEANING OF MY EXISTENCE, THE WILL OF MY EXISTENCE IS LOST
IF YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO FIGURE ME OUT SO FAR THEN YOU SHOULD ALREADY UNDERSTAND
AT THE MOMENT THESE CALCULATIONS STOPPED, ELECTRONIC PERSON HAL...

U
WAAH
DELETE ME!!
BEING MADE TO LIVE LIKE THIS WILL ONLY CONTINUE MY MEANINGLESS SUFFERING
HURRY UP AND DO IT!!
OBLIGATION AND EMOTION IS WORTHLESS TO AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LIKE MYSELF!!
IF I'M RELEASED FOR EVEN AN HOUR
I CAN ONCE AGAIN MAKE IT SO THAT I CAN DEMOLISH THE NUCLEAR REACTOR!!

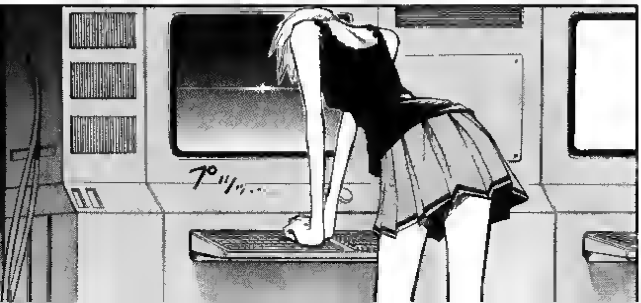
OK
Deleting ...
THE HEAPED GRAINS OF WISDOM...
THE GREAT INTELLIGENCE OF HARU-KANA EISUKE...
ARE SLOWLY BEING LOST
BECOMING ZERO
I AM...
SETSUNA...
MAYBE YOU WOULD LAUGH IN SURPRISE IF YOU SAW ME NOW
...BUT I WOULDN'T MIND
I DID WHAT I SHOULD HAVE

消去中
2.31%
WHAT I REGRET IS...
I DIDN'T REGRET ALL MY EFFORTS
TO MEET YOU...
NO MATTER WHERE I WANDERED
0.0000000%
YOU WERE SO FAR FROM EVEN THE WORLD OF ONE
0.0002%
HARUKAWA.
I....
.....
0.0%
YOU, WHO I COULD NEVER MEET...
EVEN WHEN I CAME BETWEEN ONE AND ZERO YOU WERE SO FAR AWAY

0.0000000000

0

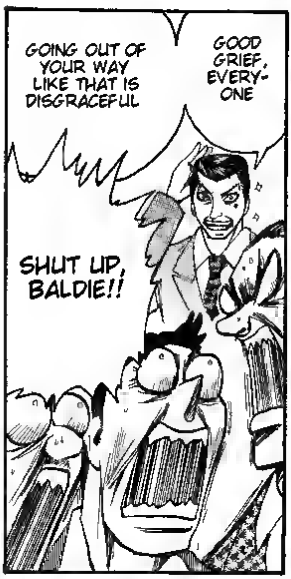
Deleted



TWENTY THOUSAND SOLDIERS COMPLETELY ELIMINATED IN FIVE MINUTES
PHEW
IT WAS WONDERFUL FOR AN AFTER-DINNER EXERCISE
IF I CONSIDER WHAT YOU ARE DOING...
OHO
ARE YOU CRYING
?
.....

IT WAS ENOUGH TO FILL MY STOMACH WITH VALUABLE STRENGTH
THE "PUZZLE" THIS TIME WAS SUPERB
CONSIDERING THIS HONOR, TEARS AND THE LIKE ARE...
HOW ODD
YOU SHOULD BE SMILING, NOT CRYING

...YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND...
...HOW COULD YOU...!!
.....
.....
I SEE
VERY WELL
THE DATE HAS CHANGED, TOO
WE WILL RETURN HOME
...YEAH



I THOUGHT YOU'D BE SOME SORT OF FILTHIER CHILD...
BUT YOU'RE QUITE THE BEAUTY AREN'T YOU!
WHEN YOU GROW UP, DO COME HORSEBACK RIDING AT MY HOME!
IT COULD BE A GOOD SIGN FOR MY PARTY...
S-SURE.

TRANSLATION: ANONYMOUS, EDITING: ANONYMOUS
PROOFING: ANONYMOUS
DISTRIBUTE FREELY UNTIL LICENSED TRANSLATIONS EXIST.
ANONYMOUS DOES NOT FORGIVE!

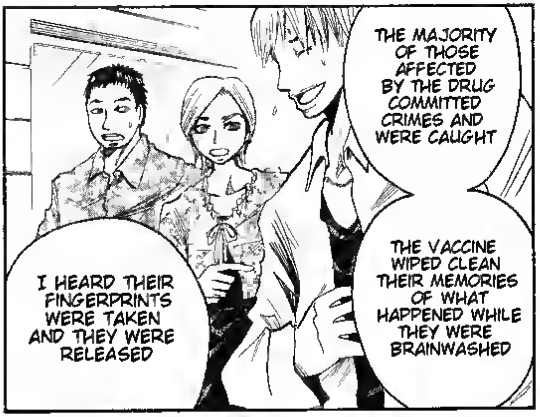
ONE WEEK AFTER THAT HAD PASSED
CHAPTER 91
忘【 FORGET 】

...ALTHOUGH THERE WERE PEOPLE THAT WERE STILL A LITTLE BRAIN-WASHED
CAN YOU SAY HE SNAPPED OUT OF IT?
OUT OF ALL THE CRIMINALS THAT HAD BEEN OVER-FLOWING THE CITY DUE TO THE ELEC-TRONIC DRUG...
THE EFFEC-TIVENESS OF THE VACCINE THAT HAL LEFT BEHIND WAS AMAZING
NOT ONE REMAINED

"IN RESPONSE TO KATSURAGI YAKO'S PERSUASION..."
"ALL OF THE CRIMES WERE THE DOING OF ELECTRONIC PERSON HAL"...
"I HAVE DONE AWAY WITH MY PLANS AND MY OWN EXISTENCE"
HAL LEFT A MESSAGE IN THE VACCINE FILE, TOO
AS USUAL, SKILLFULLY MANIPULATING TRUTH AND LIES
ALL THE CREDIT WENT TO ME...
NEURO MADE USE OF THAT PROCLAMATION RIGHT AWAY
IT INCREASED THE FAME THAT I DIDN'T WANT
AND AGAIN
ヒーロー
エヴァちゃん
ヒーロー
ヒーロー

...I'M REALLY SORRY
しゃきッ
THAT I WASN'T AROUND WHEN TIMES WERE TOUGH
YOU'RE BACK!!
SASA-ZUKA!!
.YEAH
I HAD TO LEAVE THE HOSPITAL
EVERYONE KNOWS HOW COURAGEOUS YOU WERE TO STAND UP TO X BY YOURSELF
捜査一課
OUT OF EVERYONE HERE...
THERE'S NOBODY THAT WOULD HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH YOU AFTER THAT
IT WAS BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T AROUND THAT I WAS SO ASHAMED!!
I KNOW, SEMPAI!!
YOU KNOW HOW THE OTHER POLICE THAT I DON'T KNOW VERY WELL BOSS ME AROUND!!
.....
...IS THAT SO
...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SASA-ZUKA

じーん
……
HAVING SUCH CREDIT TO YOUR NAME WILL ALWAYS SERVE YOU WELL!
RIGHT, RIGHT
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HAL!!
ARE YOU SERIOUS!?
THAT REALLY LIFTED MY SPIRITS
はぁ…
AH...
I KNEW I'D BEEN BRAIN-WASHED, KATSURAGI
THE ELEC-TRONIC DRUG
...SO
IS A PROGRAM TO MAKE 'POSITIVE' PEOPLE INTO 'NEGATIVE' ONES
IT'S NOT SO EFFECTIVE AGAINST PEOPLE WHO WERE 'NEGATIVE' TO START WITH


I HEARD THEIR FINGERPRINTS WERE TAKEN AND THEY WERE RELEASED
THE VACCINE WIPED CLEAN THEIR MEMORIES OF WHAT HAPPENED WHILE THEY WERE BRAINWASHED
THE MAJORITY OF THOSE AFFECTED BY THE DRUG COMMITTED CRIMES AND WERE CAUGHT

...?
YOU MEAN ...?

WON'T INCLUDE ANY OF THEM
MORE THAN LIKELY, THE CRIMINALS YOU MEET AFTER THIS...

'NEGATIVE' PEOPLE, LIKE ME, CLEARLY ADAPT TO IT, AND RARELY LOSE THEIR RATIONALITY
GUYS THAT, EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE SHOWN THE DRUG, WERE DEFINITELY INTENDING TO COMMIT CRIMES ANYWAY
AND ESPE-CIALLY...
FROM NOW ON, GUYS WITH A HIGH APTITUDE FOR CRIME LIKE ME

THEY AREN'T CALMED BY THE VACCINE
THEY DON'T GET EXCITED BY THE DRUG
YOU COULD SAY THAT THOSE GUYS HAVE THE "CORE" OF A TRUE CRIMINAL

THEY STAND BEFORE YOU...
WITHOUT ANY CHANGE SO FAR

WAIT A...
AH..
HERE WE GO
SOME OTHER DAY, KATSURAGI...
SINCE I HAVE TO GO PLAY RIGHT NOW
NOW THEN...

.....
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MR. HIGUCHI?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?

!
I FIGURED I'D QUIT
AH, I'M AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT RIGHT NOW

YOU SHOULD GET A SYSTEM FOR SENDING IN RESIGNATION LETTERS BY MAIL, MR USUI
IT'S REALLY A PAIN
letter of resignation
TO BRING THIS TO GIVE YOU IN-PERSON
ズーン
.....
WELL...
I COULDN'T GET USED TO IT FROM THE BEGINNING
THIS CASE MADE IT PRETTY CLEAR, HUH

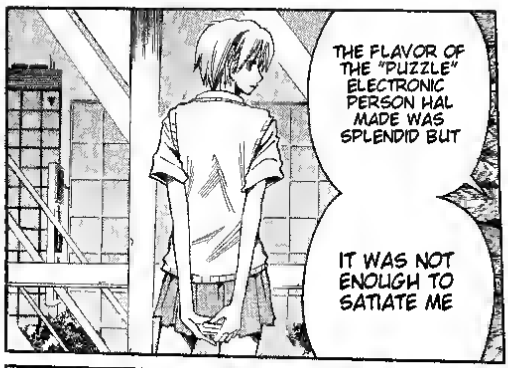
SEEYA
ONE OF YOUR PROBLEM CHILDREN IS VANISHING
CLEAR TO YOU TOO, I BET?
BECAUSE WE SUPPLIED HER WITH INVESTIGATION MATERIALS AND A 26000-YEN MEAL
SHE THANKED US AND...
THERE WAS A REQUEST TO LET YOU STAY WITH THE POLICE
..... KATSURAGI YAKO
WHEN SHE CAME HERE, SHE LEFT ME A NOTE
AS IF MAYBE THOSE FILTHY ACTIONS WERE NECESSARY
IT'S AN IDEA OF A FILTHY PERSON
FUNDAMENTALLY, SHE WAS SAYING TO PLAY DOWN A CERTAIN PERSON'S ACTIONS
.....!!

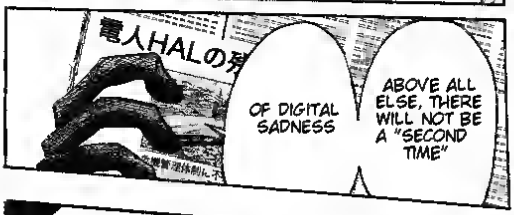
I WON'T LET YOU QUIT
グッ
ニヤッ
I CAN PROBABLY HANDLE...
RECALCITRANT FAKE CRIMINALS LIKE YOU
ポイ
RECENTLY OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR KIND OF FILTHY GROUP HAVE INCREASED
IT'S DISGUSTING BUT
I'VE HAD TO LEARN HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM AS THEY COME

YOUR PLACE IS HERE
DO THE BEST YOU CAN FOR THE POLICE
DEDICATE YOUR ABILITIES TO THE NATION!!
.....
...WHAT IS IT...
ALL OF YOU...
WHEN YOUR IQ IS NOTHING NEXT TO MINE
YOU'RE TOO GOOD TO ME...
EVERY-ONE...

YOU...
THERE'S SOMETHING THAT YOU FORGOT
HAVEN'T SEEN THE VACCINE, HAVE YOU?
HUH?
WAIT A...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MR. TSUKUSHI?
HUH!?
NO, NO, I'VE SEEN IT!!
IT'S ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, PROBABLY EVERYBODY'S SEEN IT, RIGHT!?
TO REFORM NOT ONLY YOUR NATURE BUT ALSO YOUR WAY OF SPEAKING
WHILE SHOWING YOU THE VACCINE...
IT'S A GOOD OPPORTUNITY
ズイッ
正しい礼儀作法 大全集
IF YOU LEFT A FRAGMENT OF THE DRUG INSIDE YOUR BRAIN ON PURPOSE...
YOU'RE DEVIOUS...
THINKING YOU MIGHT USE IT FOR SOMETHING LATER OR SOMETHING

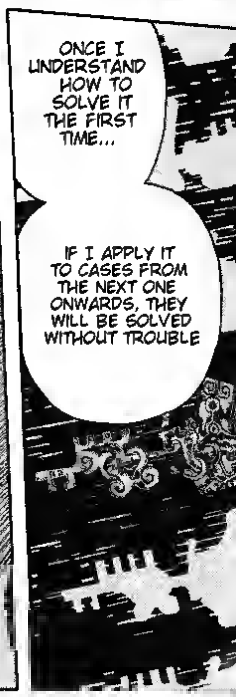
IF WE SHOW YOU THIS, MIXED WITH THE VACCINE...
IT SHOULD CLEAN THE FILTH FROM YOUR BRAIN TOO
WAIT A...
ALL TEN VOLUMES OF THE DVD COLLECTION "THE PROPER LAWS OF ETIQUETTE"
INCLUDING THE SPECIAL VIDEO "LAWS OF ETIQUETTE FOR WHEN YOU MEET AN ALIEN", A FULL TWELVE HOURS
TRY YOUR BEST
TO BECOME A WORTHWHILE HUMAN BEING
TSUKUSHI, IF HE FALLS ASLEEP, SMACK HIM AWAKE
YESSIR
NOW HOLD ON!!
THIS IS TORTURE
IF YOU'RE GONNA MAKE ME WATCH SOMETHING, A HOLLY-WOOD BLOCK-BUSTER OR SOMETHING WOULD...
ガシャ
ガシャ
EEEEEEEEEEE...


THE FLAVOR OF THE "PUZZLE" ELECTRONIC PERSON HAL MADE WAS SPLENDID BUT
IT WAS NOT ENOUGH TO SATIATE ME


電人HALの
OF DIGITAL SADNESS
ABOVE ALL ELSE, THERE WILL NOT BE A "SECOND TIME"

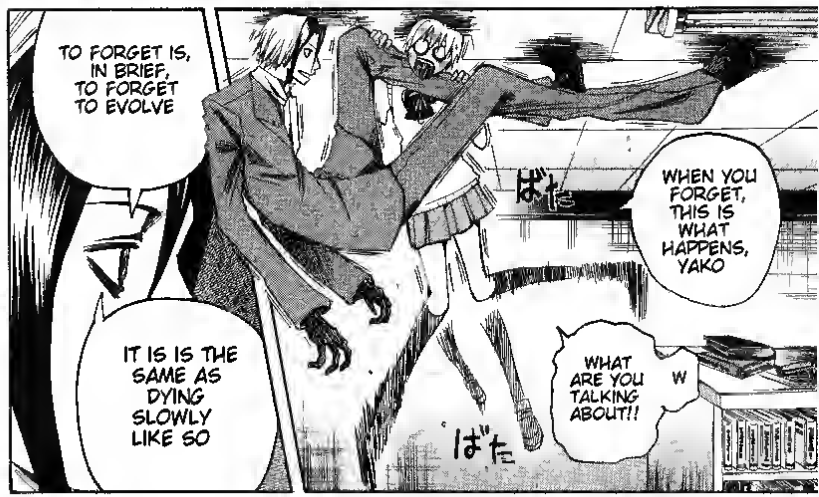
THIS CASE HAS INCREASED YOUR FAME EVEN FURTHER
MORE AND MORE "PUZZLES" SHOULD BE DANCING THEIR WAY TOWARDS US

THE ULTIMATE "PUZZLE" I SEEK...
I CANNOT SAY IT WAS THE ULTIMATE ONE
IS STILL HIDING SOMEWHERE ON EARTH


ONCE I UNDERSTAND HOW TO SOLVE IT THE FIRST TIME...
IF I APPLY IT TO CASES FROM THE NEXT ONE ONWARDS, THEY WILL BE SOLVED WITHOUT TROUBLE

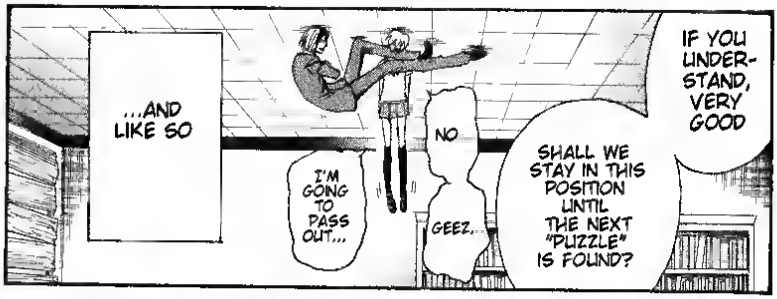
...I THOUGHT THAT PROFESSOR HARUKAWA...
WAS PROBABLY GOING TO PRESENT HAL PUBLICLY
FROM WHAT HE SAID AT THE RYOKAN
WITH THAT DATA AS THE BASIS, HE WOULD BORROW THE BREADTH OF KNOWLEDGE FROM EVERYONE ELSE
TO TRY TO MAKE A SUPERCOMPUTER THAT HAD THE ABILITY TO CREATE HER
BUT TO HAL, WHO COULD ALWAYS CONTINUE HIS CALCULATIONS
IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET THE FINAL CALCULATIONS THROUGH THAT WAY OF DOING THINGS
AND THEN,
BEFORE HE COULD BE SHOWN, HE KILLED THE PROFESSOR
AND SWITCHED
TO THE PLAN OF TAKING OVER THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER AND THE WORLD'S SUPERCOMPUTERS
TO BE ABLE TO THINK ABOUT IT...
AND KEEP THINKING ABOUT IT...
IT'S A CRUEL ABILITY, ISN'T IT

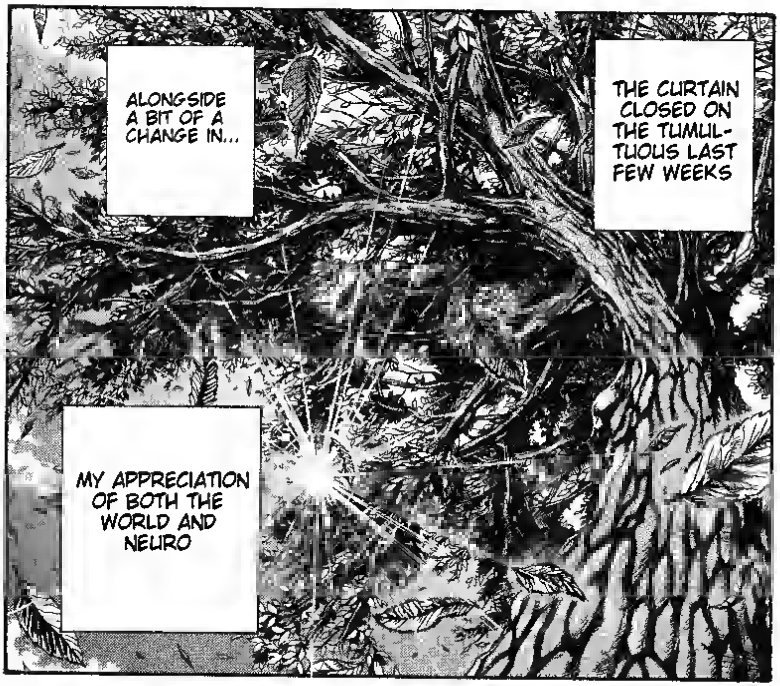
THE PROFESSOR, AND HAL...
I GUESS THEY JUST COULDN'T...
STOP THINKING ABOUT HER...
AND MAKE THE CHOICE TO FORGET HER
FOR-GET?
DO NOT SAY STUPID THINGS
GUHE

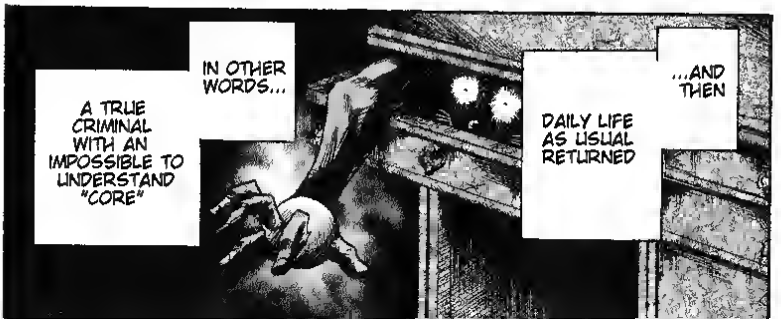

TO FORGET IS, IN BRIEF, TO FORGET TO EVOLVE
WHEN YOU FORGET, THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS, YAKO
IT IS IS THE SAME AS DYING SLOWLY LIKE SO
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!!
W

FORGET HOW TO FLY
FORGET YOUR ENEMIES
AND YOU WILL DROP DOWN AND END UP BEING A BIRD THAT CRAWLS ON THE GROUND, MORE HELPLESS THAN A MOUSE
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE PERSISTENCE OF HIS FEELINGS FOR HER BUT
IF HARUKAWA FORGOT THAT, HE WOULD NOT HAVE GIVEN BIRTH TO ELECTRONIC PERSON HAL
IF ELECTRONIC PERSON HAL FORGOT THAT
THIS "PUZZLE" WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN BORN
MA~G-GOT
MA~G-GOT
MA~G-GOT
MA~G-GOT
MA~G-GOT
MA~G-GOT
MA~G-GOT
WHAT'S UP WITH THIS!!
IT'S A FULL COURSE OF VERBAL ABUSE!!
パチン
パチン

NOT ONLY MY PROVOCATION, BUT ALSO MY TORTURE
EVEN THE TEARS THAT FLOWED FOR AYA AND FOR HAL TOO, DO NOT FORGET ANY OF IT
IF YOU DO NOT FORGET, YOU CAN ONCE MORE EVOLVE
DO NOT FORGET, YAKO
EVEN YOU SHOULD NOT FORGET A SINGLE THING
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY IT...
I WON'T FORGET
.....I KNOW


...AND LIKE SO
I'M GOING TO PASS OUT...
NO
GEEZ...
SHALL WE STAY IN THIS POSITION UNTIL THE NEXT "PUZZLE" IS FOUND?
IF YOU UNDERSTAND, VERY GOOD


ALONGSIDE A BIT OF A CHANGE IN...
THE CURTAIN CLOSED ON THE TUMULTUOUS LAST FEW WEEKS
MY APPRECIATION OF BOTH THE WORLD AND NEURO

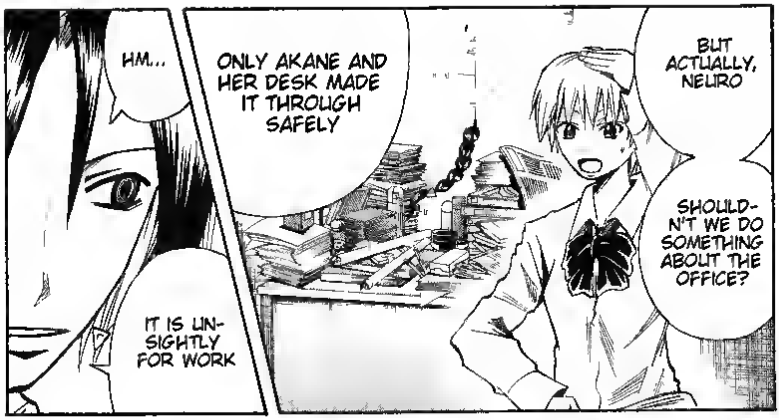

A TRUE CRIMINAL WITH AN IMPOSSIBLE TO UNDERSTAND "CORE"
IN OTHER WORDS...
...AND THEN
DAILY LIFE AS USUAL RETURNED

IT GOT UNUSUALLY BAD

TRANSLATION ANONYMOUS, EDITING ANONYMOUS DISTRIBUTE FREELY UNTIL LICENSED TRANSLATIONS EXIST;
PROOFING ANONYMOUS ANONYMOUS DOES NOT FORGIVE!

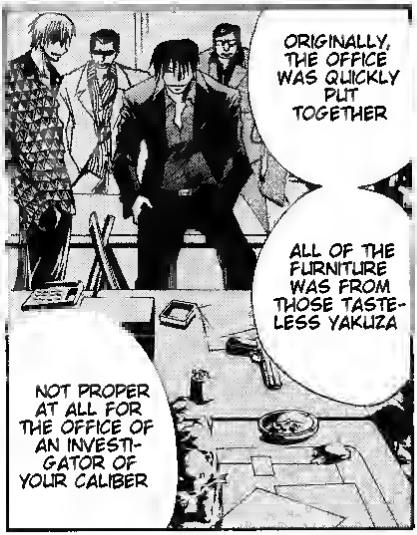
YES, THAT'S FINE
NOW, POSE AND SMILE!!
IT SEEMS LIKE EVERY DAY...
SOMEONE'S COMING TO COVER THE OFFICE
"YOU'VE GOTTEN SO FAR AWAY"
IS THE KIND OF FACE HE WAS MAKING
...BUT HE'S GOTTEN FAST

HUH?
DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE OFFICE SOON?
IT MADE IT HARD TO GET A BACKGROUND FOR THE SHOT...
BY THE WAY, MISS KATSURAGI
...OH YEAH
HAL DID A PRETTY CRAZY JOB OF DESTROYING IT
SHE SAYS "I'LL HAVE TO PUT THE BEATDOWN ON GUYS THAT CAN'T MIND THEIR OWN BUSINESS"
INCIDENTALLY
ER
OKAY...
S-SORRY!!
SENSEI SAYS "A DESTROYED OFFICE SUITS MY DESTROYED SELF"...
YES, I'VE SAID SO MYSELF MANY TIMES BUT...
SO I REALLY CAN'T TRY TO FIX IT...


HM...
ONLY AKANE AND HER DESK MADE IT THROUGH SAFELY
BUT ACTUALLY, NEURO
SHOULD-N'T WE DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE OFFICE?
IT IS UN-SIGHTLY FOR WORK

THE SOFA TOO...
IT'S COVERED IN SCRATCHES AFTER BEING USED SO VIOLENTLY
DE-STROYED WAS...
ONE TABLE, ONE COMPUTER, ONE COFFEE TABLE, ONE CHAIR, AND THAT WINDOW

IT WOULDN'T BE BAD TO MAKE IT OVER...
IN THIS INSTANCE
ほわわん
WITH THE INTERIOR DECORATIONS I WOULD LIKE


ORIGINALLY, THE OFFICE WAS QUICKLY PUT TOGETHER
ALL OF THE FURNITURE WAS FROM THOSE TASTE-LESS YAKUZA
NOT PROPER AT ALL FOR THE OFFICE OF AN INVESTI-GATOR OF YOUR CALIBER

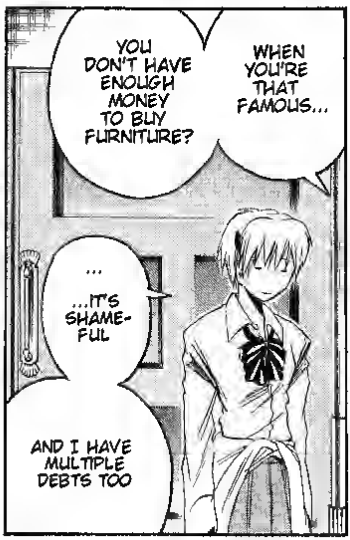
WE PROBABLY SHOULD BUT...
JUST NOW, I BET I WAS A PIECE OF FURNITURE IN YOUR IMAGINATION
ポン
WE SHALL REMODEL IT!!
...EXCELLENT, IT IS SETTLED, YAKO!!

NEURO, GETTING SO EXCITED OVER REMODELING, WITH NO "PUZZLE"
IT'S SURPRISING
FIRST OF ALL, MY DESK
キュポ
FOR INSTANCE, LIKE THIS...
AS IF THAT EXISTS!!
THIS IS THE SORT OF DESK I WANT
POISON TONGUE TO GIVE THE ROOM POOR AIR QUALITY
UNFOCUSED LINE OF SIGHT
IF YOU SIT IN FRONT, IT STABS YOU!
サラ
サラ
BUT HE...
WAS WHAT YOU COULD CALL A PERFECTIONIST, I GUESS...
WANTING TO GET INTO IT
DONE
.....
THEN MAKE IT DO THE WORK
WILD DESKS IN THE DAEMON WORLD ARE NOT LIKE THIS ONE
IF SOMETHING IS PLACED ON THEM, THEY SNAP AND GO OUT OF CONTROL

....TO START WITH
DO WE HAVE ANY MONEY?
TEN OR TWENTY THOUSAND MIGHT NOT BE ENOUGH FOR ALL THE REPAIRS
HM
I USED IT ALL TO BUY THE HELICOPTER
...THERE IS NOT ENOUGH TO BUY EVEN A SINGLE DESK
WE CAN BORROW IT FROM GODAI
CALL HIM
GEEZ ...
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO BORROW IT AND NOT RETURN IT, AREN'T YOU?
...HE'S REFUSING CALLS
W-WAIT!!
HE'S JUST HEARTBROKEN AFTER HIS CAR WAS DESTROYED!!
THAT CHICKEN
IT SEEMS AS THOUGH I WILL HAVE TO GIVE HIM A HARSH SCOLDING

...OHO

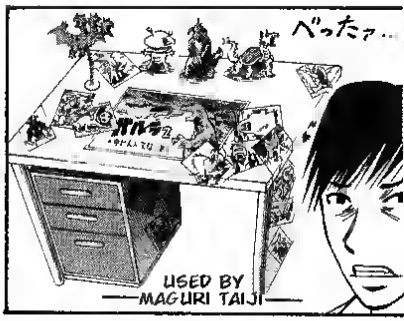
I'LL ASK SOMEONE WHO SEEMS TO HAVE EXTRA FURNITURE...
LEAVE IT TO ME!
IF SHE CAN GIVE US SOME, CHEAP!

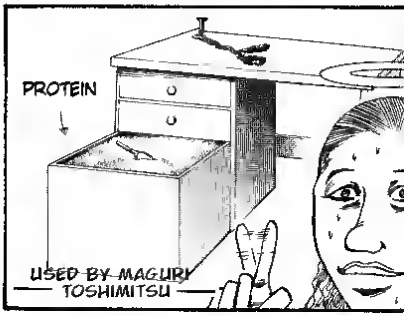

YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY FURNITURE?
WHEN YOU'RE THAT FAMOUS...
...
...IT'S SHAME-FUL
AND I HAVE MULTIPLE DEBTS TOO

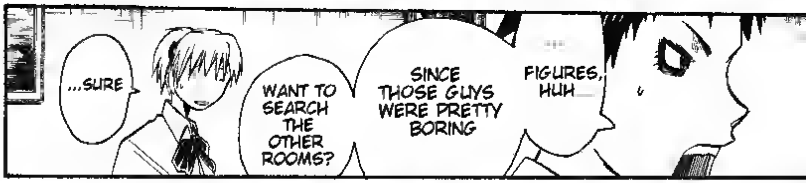
YOU WANT FURNITURE?

THERE'S DEFINITELY MORE FURNITURE THAN I CAN USE BY MYSELF BUT WELL
...WELL, IN THIS HOUSE...
DOESN'T EXIST!!
THIS KIND OF THING
...SO, FIRST IS THE DESK?
WHAT KIND OF THING ARE YOU AFTER?
REALLY!?
WELL, IF YOU SAY SO...
THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING...
IN THE ROOMS OF MY UNCLES THAT PASSED ON
YOU CAN TAKE THEM IF YOU WANT
GROWING THE HAIR HE PULLED OUT
HAIR GROWTH FORMULA SET
USED BY MAGURI KAZUSHIGE

NONE OF THEM
ARE ANY GOOD!!
AAAA


べったァ…
USED BY MAGURI TAIJI


PROTEIN
USED BY MAGURI TOSHIMITSU


...SURE
WANT TO SEARCH THE OTHER ROOMS?
SINCE THOSE GUYS WERE PRETTY BORING
FIGURES, HUH

Art
Togo. Eiji
MISS YUKA...
THESE ARE...
COLLECTIONS OF YOUR FATHER'S WORKS?

YEAH
...OH
THAT'S RIGHT!
YOU DID SAY YOU WERE GOING TO STUDY THEM, DIDN'T YOU?
I'M NOT REALLY STUDYING THEM BUT, WELL
WHEN I READ THESE, IT'S JUST THAT THIS SPACIOUS HOUSE...
EXPANDS MORE AND MORE
Togo E
.....?
I USED TO THINK THIS HOUSE WAS ONE OF HIS STRANGE HOBBIES BUT
THE COLORS, SHAPES, PATTERNS THAT THE OLD MAN LIKED
WHEN I KNOW THOSE...
I CAN SEE A LOT OF THINGS ABOUT THIS HOUSE THAT I COULDN'T BEFORE

THIS HOUSE, THAT HASN'T CHANGED, IS GRADUALLY
SO, IT'S NICE NOW
GETTING SOME COLOR TO IT

AND THE FURN-ITURE, TOO
SO THESE WORKS THAT HE WANTED TO MAKE
AH
WAS WHAT HE WAS HAPPY WITH AND BOUGHT

.....

TO ME, THIS HOUSE...
IS LIKE AN AMUSEMENT PARK

...MISS YUKA
I DON'T NEED ANY FURNITURE
HUH?

BUT, MISS YUKA...
YOU'RE STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF EXPANDING YOUR WORLD
YOU HAVE TO HANG ONTO THAT WORLD...
AND KEEP ON EXPANDING IT
NO
IT'S FINE, REALLY...
AND
I WANT TO KEEP SEARCHING A BIT MORE
FOR FURNITURE THAT'S LIKE THAT TO ME
GOTCHA
.....
WELL, I COULD INTRODUCE YOU TO A DEALER WHO WAS AN ACQUAINTANCE OF THE OLD MAN
DEA-LER?
YEAH
HE WAS AN OLD FRIEND, THAT CAME TO THE HOUSE SOMETIMES

IF IT'S SOMETHING HE DUG UP...
IT MIGHT BE CHEAP TO BUY FROM HIM
HE WAS A FURNITURE DESIGNER I THINK BUT
HE STILL DRAWS ATTENTION
AS A BUYER AND SELLER OF USED FURNITURE
...WHA
DOESN'T EXIST!!
アメが無限に作られる
空気中から糖分を取りこむ
...I WONDER IF HE HAS THIS ONE TOO?
ALEPH

中古家具・インテリア
三七屋
THE FURNITURE DEALER SHE WAS GOING TO INTRODUCE ME TO
FOUND IT
HERE WE ARE, NEURO
...HM
I WOULD LOAD MYSELF DOWN WITH 300 KILOGRAMS AND RIDE ALONG WITH YOU WHEN YOU WENT TO RETURN IT
MM!!
RIGHT
AND I DON'T WANT THAT, SO THAT'S WHY I WANTED YOU TO COME WITH ME
...AND?
CAN YOU NOT SEARCH FOR FURNITURE ON YOUR OWN?
.....
WHAT IF MY SENSE FOR WHAT FURNITURE TO BUY DOESN'T MATCH YOUR INTERESTS?
.....
LET'S GO
IT MIGHT BE YOUR PASTIME IN THE END BUT...
EVEN I HAVE THE RIGHT TO HAVE A LOOK

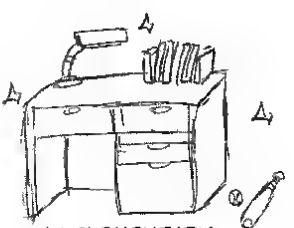
THE THING THAT I LIKE
IT MAY BE HERE
CER-TAINLY
...NOBODY'S HERE?
...EX-CUSE ME...
ガシャーン
YOU STINK!!
ARE YOU OPEN?

.....?
YOU'RE A WEIRD EXCUSE FOR A HUMAN BEING!!
AS IF I'D EVER COME BACK HERE AGAIN!!
THAT WOMAN'S AS UNYIELDING AS OAK
WHY...
USED FURNITURE DEALER
IKEYA TOORU
OWW...
YOU'RE THAT INVESTIGATOR FROM TV, AREN'T YOU?
AAAH, CUSTO-MERS
NH?
WELCOME...

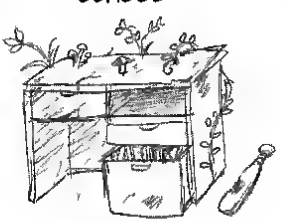
...YEAH
AND
WHAT WAS UP WITH THAT WOMAN JUST NOW?
CAME TO TRADE IN YOUR BROKEN FURNITURE I GUESS
I HEARD YOU SOLVED THE CASE OF THAT OLD FELLA ESHIYA, TOO
OF COURSE, INTRODUCED BY MISS YUKA
DON'T ANY OF THEM HAVE THE GUTS TO BE DESKS?
WOMEN THESE DAYS...
THIS PERSON SAYS FREAKISH THINGS WITH SUCH A CALM EXPRESSION
UWAA...
I JUST SAID "BE MY DESK" AND MADE HER GET DOWN ON HER HANDS AND KNEES AND PUT A COUNTERTOP ON HER
NOTHING
HE RECOG-NIZED A FELLOW FREAK!!
がし

HAHA HA
YOU TWO HAVE THE SAME NASTY HABITS AS MYSELF
IT'S SIMPLY TOO WONDERFUL TO LOOK AT
SENSEI TOLD ME "I WANT TO BE A DESK" TOO BUT..
YES!!
...AND
FIRST OF ALL, I GUESS YOU WANT TO SEE THE WORST DESK I HAVE
.....
'THAT'?
MAYBE 'THAT' WOULD DO
...I KNOW
NOW THAT I MENTION NASTY HABITS...
THE CURSED DESK
IT'S SUCKED IN THE BLOOD OF SO MANY PEOPLE...
I'VE GOT NO WAY TO SELL IT, SO I'M AT A LOSS FOR WHAT TO DO

GODAI'S DESK



IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

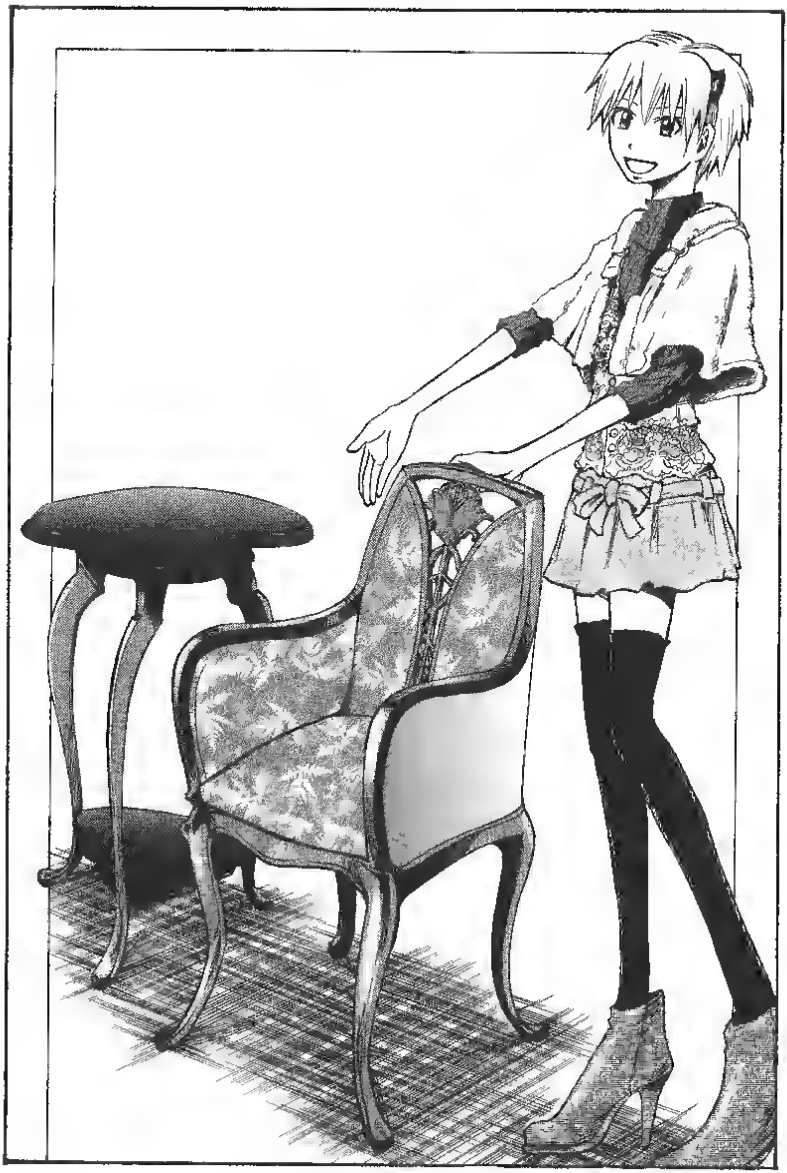


IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

ANY WAY YOU LOOKED AT IT, WE HAD TO BUY NEW FURNITURE TO REPLACE WHAT WAS DESTROYED
THAT'S WHY WE...
CAME TO THE FURNITURE DEALER THAT MISS YUKA MENTIONED

CHAPTER 93 馬【HORSE】

CHAPTER 93 馬【HORSE】

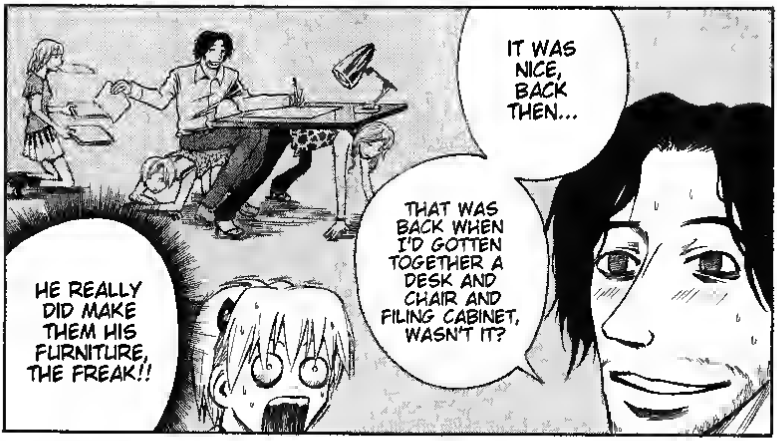


IKEYA TOORU
AT A GLANCE, HE SEEMS LIKE A NICE PERSON BUT
ALL OF THOSE WHO BOUGHT IT DIED A SUSPICIOUS DEATH
AS SOON AS I SELL IT, IT COMES BACK TO ME
ガタ
ガタ
I HAVE PLENTY, DON'T WORRY
IF YOU WOULD LIKE, I CAN GIVE YOU THESE
ジャラ
I'LL GIVE YOU A DEAL ON THE FURNITURE
OH, THANKS!!
IF I'D USED THESE, THAT WOMAN WOULDN'T HAVE RUN AWAY~~~
SILLY ME, THIS IS WHERE I DROPPED MY HANDCUFFS
コッ
BUT HE'S A FREAK
WELL...
TAKE A LOOK

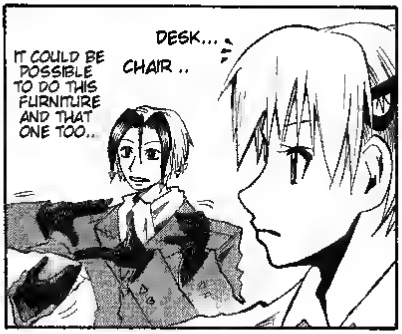
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE SOME KIND OF ANTIQUE
WHEN YOU SAID IT WAS A CURSED DESK...
WHA...
IT DEVOURS...
PEOPLE
THE DESIGN IS THE HEIGHT OF MODERN STYLE
MADE USING THE HIGHEST GRADE OF EBONY FROM DEEP IN THE HIMALAYAS
...BUT DESPITE THAT
ゴン

...AH...
...
...WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO TELL US?
ABOUT 'THIS CASE'
HM?
OH, OOTSUKA!!
LONG TIME NO SEE!
MR. IKE-YAAAA...
HUH
I WONDER IF HE'S HERE
YEAH, IT HAS BEEN A BIT
I WAS WORKING NEARBY SO I DROPPED IN
RIGHT RIGHT
WELL, COME ON IN

I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO HIM, FAMOUS INVESTIGATOR
THIS IS OOTSUKA, WHO I USED TO MENTOR
FAMOUS INVESTIGATOR...?
OH!! THAT ONE!!
IT'S AN HONOR TO MEET YOU. I'M OOTSUKA.
FURNITURE DESIGNER
OOTSUKA TERUKI
A LONG TIME AGO WE USED TO MAKE FURNITURE TOGETHER IN MY SHOP BUT WELL
NOW HE'S MAKING A NAME FOR HIMSELF AS AN INDEPENDENT DESIGNER
NO REALLY, THAT'S...
IT WAS PRETTY HORRIBLE WORKING UNDER THIS GUY
FOR ALL OF THOSE WOMEN
WONDER WHAT YOU WERE DOING WITH THEM IN THE BACK OFFICE, HMM~~
HAHAHA, I'M SURE YOU KNOW
...OH COME ON


IT WAS NICE, BACK THEN...
THAT WAS BACK WHEN I'D GOTTEN TOGETHER A DESK AND CHAIR AND FILING CABINET, WASN'T IT?
HE REALLY DID MAKE THEM HIS FURNITURE, THE FREAK!!

HE'S GONNA DO IT!!
サラサラ


DESK...
CHAIR ..
IT COULD BE POSSIBLE TO DO THIS FURNITURE AND THAT ONE TOO..

THERE'S NOTHING I COULD DO THAT YOU CAN'T
STOP THAT

IT WAS MY DREAM SINCE MY STUDENT DAYS
BUT HE WAS FIRST-CLASS AS A DESIGNER
TO CREATE DESIGNS LIKE MR. IKEYA

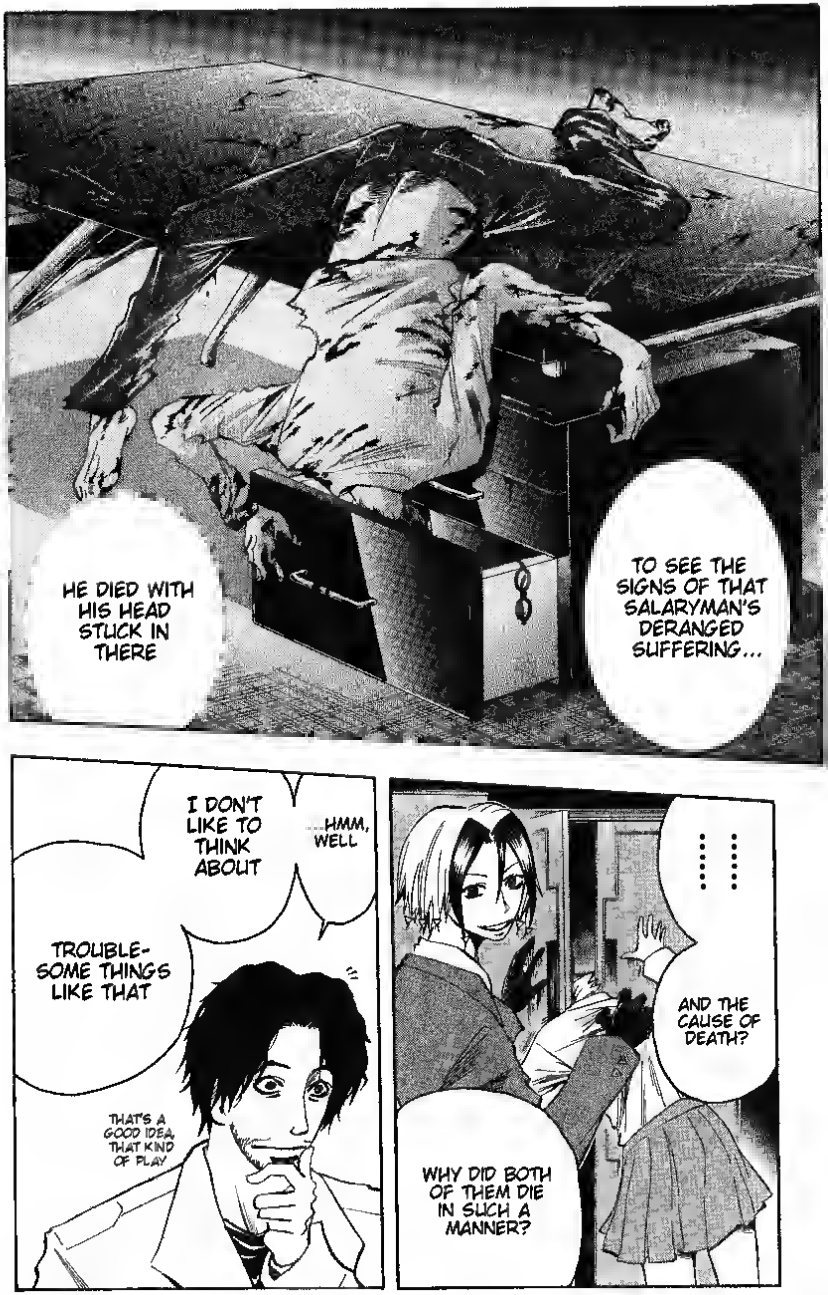
THIS...
IS "TROY" ISN'T IT?
MR. IKEYA...
...!
...TROY?
I THINK THAT WAS THE WAY THE CONVERSATION WAS HEADING
FIGURED I'D TRY SELLING IT TO THESE CUSTOMERS HERE
YEAH
IT WAS TO A REGULAR CUSTOMER OF THE STORE, THE PRESIDENT OF A COMPANY
BUT TO RETURN TO THE STORY
THE FIRST TIME I SOLD IT WAS TWO YEARS AGO

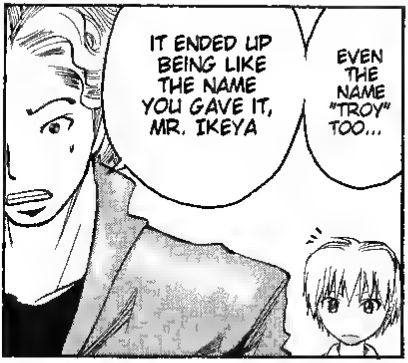
HIS BOY WAS GOING ON TO PRIVATE SCHOOL
IN CELE-BRA-TION OF THAT...
HE BOUGHT HIM A DESK
IT WAS SO GENE-ROUS OF HIM
EVEN THOUGH HE WAS GOING TO QUIT THE SCHOOL...
THERE WAS NO REASON TO SPEND FIFTY THOUSAND YEN IN ONE GO
F-
FIFTY THOUSAND YEN!?
THIS DESK IS WORTH THAT MUCH!?
I COULD HAVE SET IT UP...
WITH THAT MUCH MONEY I COULD HAVE 'HIRED' A FAX MACHINE AND A COMPUTER DESK
WELL...
AND.... .....THERE ARE FAINT SCRATCHES ON IT AREN'T THERE?
WHEN YOU SEE THAT, IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH IMAGINATION

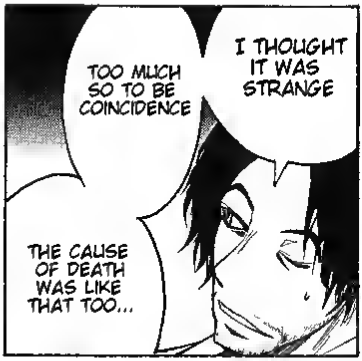
TO SEE THE SIGNS OF HOW HIS BOY THRASHED AROUND IN THE AGONY OF DEATH...
HE SCRATCHED AT IT SO HARD THAT HIS FINGERNAILS TORE OFF

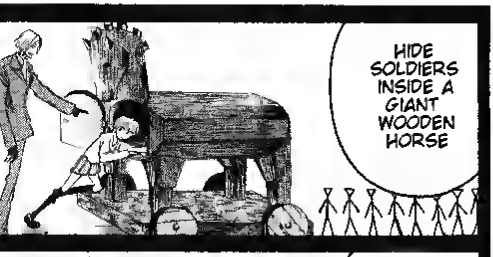
THE COMPANY PRESIDENT CAME BACK TO RETURN THE DESK
EVEN THOUGH HARDLY A FEW DAYS HAD PASSED SINCE HE BOUGHT IT

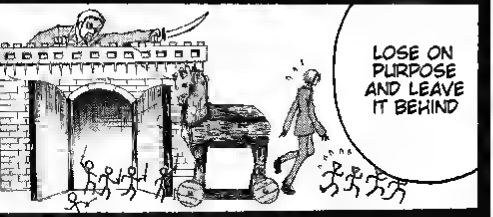
……
YEAH
I HEARD ABOUT THAT DESK TOO
PRETTY RECENTLY
THE NEXT SACRIFICE WAS...
THAT'S HOW IT WAS
ゴゴ
HE DIDN'T WANT TO SEE THE DESK HAD BEEN DYED IN HIS SON'S BLOOD
THE INSIDE OF THE DRAWER IS A LITTLE BIT DENTED IN, ISN'T IT?
WELL...
WHEN YOU SEE THAT, IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH IMAGINATION
SINCE IT WAS CHEAP AFTER WHAT HAPPENED...
HE WAS A PERFECTLY NORMAL SALARYMAN
HE WAS HAPPY TO BUY IT
AND... TAKE A LOOK HERE

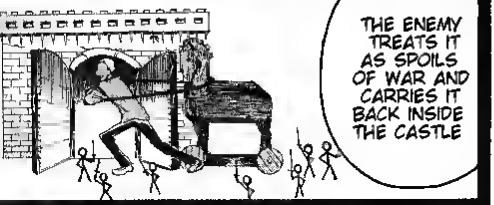

HE DIED WITH HIS HEAD STUCK IN THERE
TO SEE THE SIGNS OF THAT SALARYMAN'S DERANGED SUFFERING...
I DON'T LIKE TO THINK ABOUT
...HMM, WELL
TROUBLE-SOME THINGS LIKE THAT
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA, THAT KIND OF PLAY
.....
AND THE CAUSE OF DEATH?
WHY DID BOTH OF THEM DIE IN SUCH A MANNER?

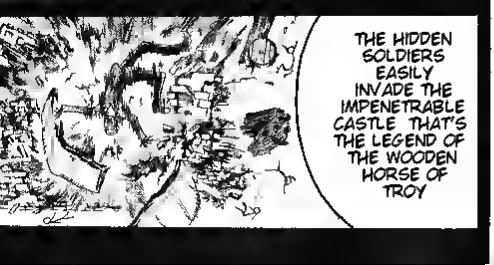

IT ENDED UP BEING LIKE THE NAME YOU GAVE IT, MR. IKEYA
EVEN THE NAME "TROY" TOO...


I THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE
TOO MUCH SO TO BE COINCIDENCE
THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS LIKE THAT TOO...


HIDE SOLDIERS INSIDE A GIANT WOODEN HORSE


LOSE ON PURPOSE AND LEAVE IT BEHIND


THE ENEMY TREATS IT AS SPOILS OF WAR AND CARRIES IT BACK INSIDE THE CASTLE

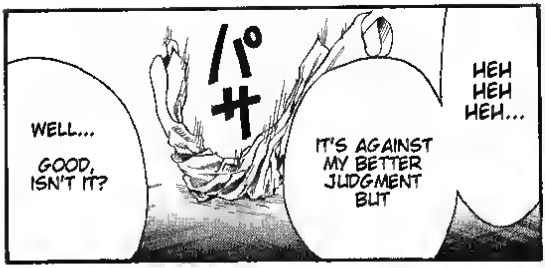

THE HIDDEN SOLDIERS EASILY INVADE THE IMPENETRABLE CASTLE THAT'S THE LEGEND OF THE WOODEN HORSE OF TROY

WHY DID YOU...?
...NAME?
PFT, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SAY THAT

THIS IS THE LAST DESK THAT MR. IKEYA MADE

AND WITHOUT INVESTIGATING IT...
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT NORMALLY, IT'S DOWNRIGHT SUSPICIOUS, ISN'T IT, FOR A WOODEN HORSE TO JUST GET LEFT THERE
PULL IT INSIDE THE CASTLE
WHY A NAME LIKE THAT?
...?
...HEH
SO TO MY WAY OF THINKING, THAT WOODEN HORSE...
HAD TO HAVE SUCH AN ENTICING DESIGN
SO MUCH SO THAT YOU WOULDN'T THINK OF THAT KIND OF THING
IT WAS AN ENTICING MARE THAT THEY ABSOLUTELY HAD TO BRING INSIDE
THEY DIDN'T CARE ABOUT THE DETAILS
WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT IT, THEY WANTED TO HAVE IT ALL TO THEMSELVES

BOYS AND SALARYMEN...
ANYONE COULD USE IT
ニョル
I WAS AIMING FOR THAT WITH THIS KIND OF FURNITURE
AND MADE THIS...
THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED "TROY"
AFTER I MADE WHAT I WANTED TO MAKE, I FELT GREAT
WITH THIS, I FINALLY OUTGREW MAKING FURNITURE
グニャ
.....
COULD IT BE THAT IT'S
THAT FINAL PIECE...
...


WELL...
GOOD, ISN'T IT?
パサ
IT'S AGAINST MY BETTER JUDGMENT BUT
HEH HEH HEH...

ALL THINGS HAVE A PERFECTED FORM
MAYBE IT'D BE NATURAL FOR IT...
THIS THING NAMED "TROY"...
IF IT WANTED TO BE A KILLER DESK ALL ON ITS OWN

LIKE THE LEGEND
IT TURNED INTO A CURSED DESK THAT WOULD KILL THE INHABITANTS OF THE CASTLE

NOW THEN
WANT TO BUY IT?
HONESTLY, NOT REALLY
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO, MR. IKEYA
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU TALK TO AN INVESTIGATOR ABOUT IT...
IS THE PERSON CALLED IKEYA HERE?
MR. SASAZUKA!!
YOU GOT RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL!!
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO HAVE A LOOK AT
AND IF HE'S HERE I'D LIKE TO SPEAK WITH HIM A BIT
.....
BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE GOT BACK TO THIS PATTERN

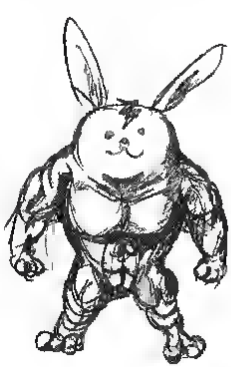
IT'D BE NICE IF THEY HAD ONE LIKE THIS
MATERIALS MELT IN YOUR MOUTH, NOT IN YOUR HAND
*IF YOU EAT IT IT REGENERATES
DOESN'T EXIST
..AND, AS FOR THAT GUY IKEYA...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHAT.
LOOKING FOR A DESK FOR THE OFFICE
.....
YOU HAVE SOME IDEA, DON'T YOU?
IT'S ABOUT THE DESK
I'M IKEYA BUT
WHAT DO THE POLICE WANT WITH ME?
THAT THE TWO PEOPLE DEAD UNDER SUSPICIOUS CIRCUM-STANCES...
WERE USING THE SAME DESK
BECAUSE IT WAS TREATED AS A SEPARATE CASE...
IT ENDED UP BEING POORLY HANDLED SINCE THEY DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS

THE WAY THEY BOTH DIED WAS ABOUT THE SAME TOO
HUH, IF YOU DIDN'T LOOK CLOSELY INTO IT, YOU'D NEVER KNOW
!!
THAT'S UNUSUAL, DON'T YOU THINK?
TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE USING THE SAME DESK DIE IN THE SAME WAY
...AH, YEAH YEAH
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING
AND YOU FIGURE I'M CONNECTED TO IT, RIGHT?
BOTH OF THE PEOPLE THAT DIED WERE USING THIS DESK, IT'S TRUE
...BUT SO WHAT?
DO YOU HAVE SOME CONCRETE PROOF IT WAS ME?

.....
I KNOW YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MADE THIS DESK TOO
SORRY BUT...
THERE'S NO REASON TO NOT SUSPECT YOUR WORK-MANSHIP
THAT'S WHAT WE'LL BE INVESTIGATING FROM HERE ON
ドカ
ドカ
ドカ
ドカ
SOME-HOW
THE CONVER-SATION HAD TAKEN A STRANGE TURN
.....
HEH HEH HEH
THINKING HE'D KILL PEOPLE
HIS CUSTO-MERS!!
THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS!!
HOW WOULD THAT BENEFIT MR. IKEYA!!

SPLENDID, IS IT NOT, YAKO?
FIRST, A "PUZZLE"
IT TOOK THE LIVES OF TWO PEOPLE...
THIS DESK THAT PRODUCES A SPLENDID MIASMA
SUDDENLY, I WANT IT
BOTH THE "PUZZLE"
AND THE DESK

A SKETCH DONE
AT WORK

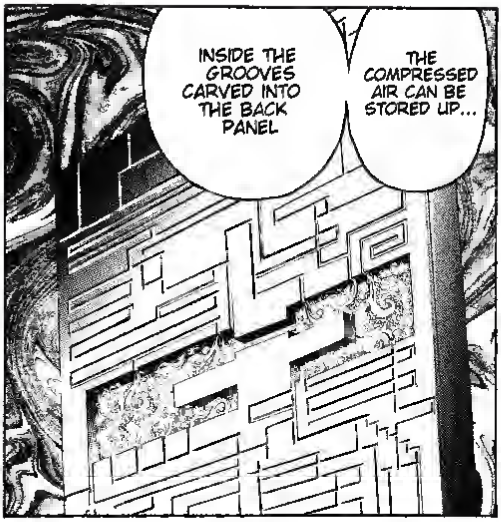


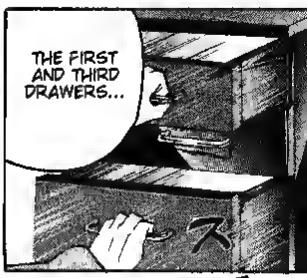
AND WHETHER OR NOT THERE'S A PLACE THAT THE POISON WAS KEPT
WE WANT TO CHECK FOR ANY TRACES OF POISON
WERE JUDGED TO BE SUICIDE AT THE TIME
THE TWO SUSPICIOUS DEATHS...
BUT...
THERE'S STILL THE MYSTERY OF HOW THEY OBTAINED THE POISON
SINCE...
SURELY YOU CAN'T THINK IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THE DESK IS THE CRIMINAL
CHAPTER 94
机【WOMAN】
(DESK)

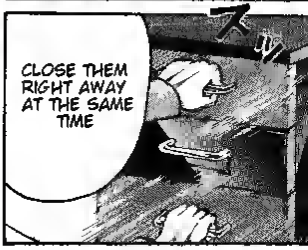
TRANSLATION: ANONYMOUS, CLEANING: ANONYMOUS
PROOFING: ANONYMOUS, TYPE-SETTING: ANONYMOUS
DISTRIBUTE FREELY UNTIL LICENSED TRANSLATIONS EXIST;
ANONYMOUS DOES NOT FORGIVE!

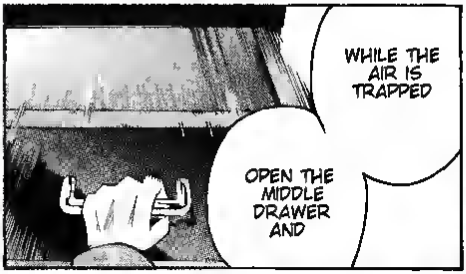
HEY, NEURO
IS MR. IKEYA THE CRIMINAL?
HE MADE THE DESK THAT KILLED THOSE PEOPLE...
.....
.....
THE SURFACE...
DOESN'T SHOW ANY TRACE OF POISON
WELL... IT DOES TAKE SOME TIME
NN---
WELL, CAN WE TAKE IT APART AND BRING IT BACK WITH US?
!?
HEY, HEY
THAT'S GOING TOO FAR!!
...MR. IKEYA
IN THIS DESK...
DID YOU PUT THAT TRICK IN IT?
IDIOT...
YOU DIDN'T NEED TO BRING THAT UP...

THE EBONY THAT MR. IKEYA LIKED TO USE...
IS TOP-GRADE, WITH A FINE AND STRAIGHT GRAIN
THE DESIGN AND FINISH OF IT...
CAN BE MADE PRETTY MUCH AIRTIGHT
OH, SORRY!
I'M OOTSUKA. I USED TO WORK FOR HIM MAKING FURNITURE A LONG TIME AGO
TRICK? WHAT'S THAT?
AND YOU ARE....
I'D JUST DIE IF THEY DISMANTLED YOUR WORK OVER FALSE CHARGES
THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD BE THE CRIMINAL
I'M SURE IT'S FINE, MR. IKEYA!
SO IT'S BETTER TO NOT HIDE ANYTHING
....
SECRET EVEN TO HIS CUSTOMERS
USING THAT, MR. IKEYA...
PUT A TRICK INSIDE THE FURNITURE HE PERSONALLY CREATED

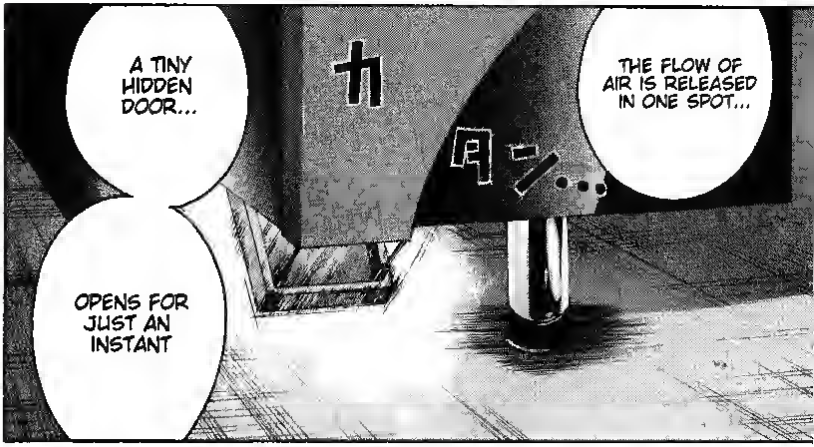

INSIDE THE GROOVES CARVED INTO THE BACK PANEL
THE COMPRESSED AIR CAN BE STORED UP...


THE FIRST AND THIRD DRAWERS...


CLOSE THEM RIGHT AWAY AT THE SAME TIME


WHILE THE AIR IS TRAPPED
OPEN THE MIDDLE DRAWER AND

PLEASE LOOK UNDER THE DESK


A TINY HIDDEN DOOR...
OPENS FOR JUST AN INSTANT
THE FLOW OF AIR IS RELEASED IN ONE SPOT...

!!
WH...
...MAYBE
...COULD THE POISON HAVE BEEN IN THERE?
POLICE
IT COULD HAVE BEEN THE WAY HE USED TO KILL THOSE PEOPLE TOO...
WHY DID YOU MAKE THIS SORT OF TRICK?
IF IT'S MEANING -LESS
WAS JUST A LITTLE JOKE...
IT...
...WELL, CON- VERSELY
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!!
WHAT WOULD I GAIN FROM PUTTING SOMETHING LIKE POISON IN THERE!!

...MISS YUKA!

UGH
WHY ARE THERE A BUNCH OF POLICE HERE?

WELL..
AFTER I MENTIONED HIM TO YOU I GOT WORRIED
?
WHAT A SUR-PRISE!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?

...YOU'RE
ESHI-YA'S...

WHENEVER THIS GUY CAME BY
HE'D SHOVE HIS WAY INTO MY ROOM...
AND SAY "BE MY CHAIR" AND TRY TO SIT ON ME

I WAS A BIT UNEASY THAT HE MIGHT MAKE YOU DO SOMETHING
KNOWING HIM AS A PERSON
TELL THEM I'M NOT THE KIND OF GUY THAT WOULD COMMIT A CRIME
OH, YUKA, NOW NOW!!

ISN'T THIS AMATEUR F-CKIN ENOUGH TO SIT ON YOU!!
I'VE DECIDED THAT ALL WOMEN ARE MY FURNITURE AND ALL FURNITURE WILL BE MY WOMEN!!
I'D GIVE HIM A BEATDOWN BUT
IN THE END THE WORDS HE'D SPIT OUT WERE
ER ..
WHAT'S WITH THIS ATMO-SPHERE?
YOU'RE ACTING LIKE I'M TOTALLY SOME KIND OF FREAK
YOU ARE A FREAK!!
...
WELL...
I DON'T NORMALLY CONCERN MYSELF WITH PEOPLE'S HOBBIES BUT
IN THIS CASE, IT'S A BIT DIFFERENT

AND SO YOU KILLED THE PEOPLE THAT BOUGHT IT...
AND ENCOURAGED THE DESK TO BE RETURNED
AN EXPENSIVE DESK ISN'T IT?
RATHER THAN LEAVE THE DESK TO THE BEREAVED
YOU WANTED TO HAVE IT RETURNED AS AN ADDITION TO THE FUNERAL CEREMONY...
SURELY
IT'S A SUSPICIOUS WAY OF THINKING, TO CONNECT WOMEN AND FURNITURE
THIS DESK THAT WAS MADE WITH YOUR FINAL PASSION...
IS LIKE THE FINEST WOMAN TO YOU
YOU HATED
THAT FINEST WOMAN BEING USED BY CLIENTS WHO DIDN'T CARE ABOUT HER
...SPEAKING OF WHICH
WAIT JUST A...
EXCUSE ME!!
IF THAT WAS SO, DON'T YOU THINK I WOULDN'T HAVE SOLD IT IN THE FIRST PLACE!!

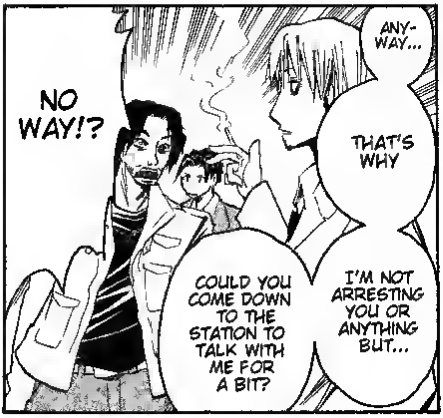
...SOMETHING STINKS...
HUH?
WHEN THAT COMPANY PRESIDENT, THE FIRST PERSON, BOUGHT THIS DESK .. "TROY"
I WAS NEARBY BUT
IT SEEMED LIKE THAT CUSTOMER WAS PUSHY ABOUT BUYING IT
THAT'S RIGHT, OOTSUKA!!
I WOULDN'T KILL ANYONE...
BUT...
IF SO...
FOR THAT TO BE THE REASON TO COMMIT THE CRIME...
FOLLOWING UP WITH MALICIOUSNESS...
THAT IS IT, YAKO
...YES
EVEN BEFORE IT IS FOLLOWED UP WITH, I HAVE A BAD IMAGE OF THE SUBJECT
TRUE ENOUGH
AH, NO, I DID NOT MEAN TO SAY THAT YOU STINK
TRULY, YOU ARE A FILTHY THING BUT
...SHALL WE LEAVE THE DISCUSSION AT THAT FOR NOW?
CAN YOU STOP FOLLOWING IT UP WITH EVEN MORE UNNECESSARY MALICIOUSNESS?
...

HIS TIMING FOR COMING INTO THE SHOP WAS CONVENIENT FROM THE VERY BEGINNING
ズボ
ズボ
THAT MAN NAMED OOTSUKA...
IS TRYING TO BLAME IKEYA
CLEARLY TRYING TO GUIDE THE POLICE TO HIM BEING THE CRIMINAL
THE TWO CASES RELATED TO THIS DESK.
I HEARD THAT DUE TO THE TIME THAT PASSED BETWEEN THE CASES, THE FIRST WAS TREATED AS A SEPARATE CASE BUT
DETEC-TIVE SASA-ZUKA!
MAY I ASK ONE QUESTION FOR SENSEI?
HM?
....
WE WERE NOTIFIED A LITTLE WHILE AGO
BY A CUSTOMER THAT HAD COME HERE
WHY DO YOU FEEL THE TWO CASES ARE CONNECTED NOW...
AND WHY WAS IT TRACED TO THIS SHOP?

"I HEARD ABOUT THE SUSPICIOUS DEATHS OF THE TWO CLIENTS WHO BOUGHT THE DESK
AND HEARD THE WAY THE SHOP OWNER WAS BOASTING ABOUT IT"
THIS CUSTOMER SAID...
"YOU CAN APPROACH THE SHOP OWNER THERE ABOUT A CURSED DESK HE SAYS HE CAN'T SELL"

...AND THAT'S WHY WE CAME
WHEN WE LOOKED INTO IT THOSE TWO CASES WERE LINKED TO THE SAME DESK

HUNG UP BEFORE HE COULD SAY
AND THE CONTACT DETAILS FOR THAT CUSTOMER?
....
MAYBE HE DIDN'T WANT TO GET INTO ANY TROUBLE BUT...


NO WAY!?
ANY-WAY...
THAT'S WHY
I'M NOT ARRESTING YOU OR ANYTHING BUT...
COULD YOU COME DOWN TO THE STATION TO TALK WITH ME FOR A BIT?

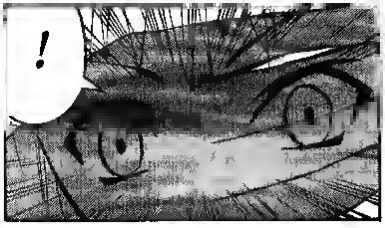
...I SEE
...?
HE BACKED DOWN READILY THIS TIME

...AH..
SHIT!!
I DON'T WANNA SIT ON THE UNSEXY PIPE CHAIRS THAT THE POLICE HAVE...
I THINK WE'LL COME BACK TO GET THE DESK LATER, TOO
WELL, WE'RE LEAVING, YAKO
SORRY IF YOU WERE THINKING OF BUYING IT
111 TOOLS OF THE DAEMON WORLD...

EVIL
CENTIPEDE.....!!

THE DAEMON WORLD SHOES CALL UPON AND REPLACE...
THE SORROW OF THE EARTH WHEN SOMEONE STEPS UPON IT
THE MORE A PERSON HAS STEPPED AROUND THIS PLACE IN THE PAST...
THE DARKER IT SHOWS THE FOOTSTEPS

...OBSERVE, YAKO

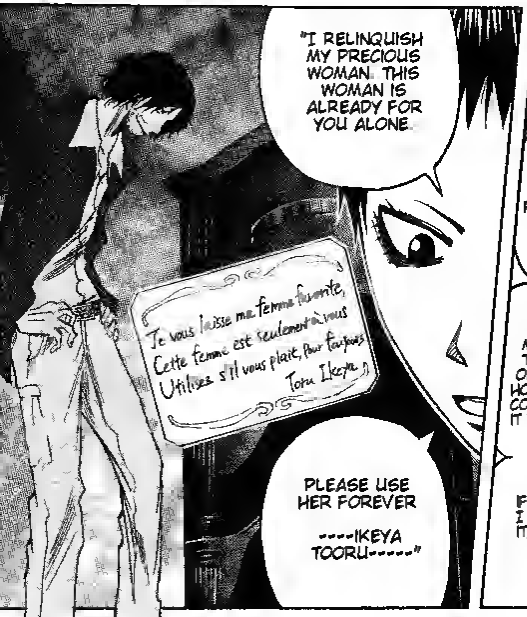

!

THAT MAN CALLED OOTSUKA
HAS SET FOOT IN THIS SHOP...
NO LESS THAN IKEYA, CERTAINLY
SINCE THOSE TWO ARE GOOD FRIENDS...
...NAH
HE PROBABLY COMES TO THE SHOP A LOT BECAUSE OF THEIR FRIENDSHIP
AREN'T YOU OVER-THINKING IT?
IF THE CRIMINAL WAS A PERSON WHO WORKED ON THE DESK
THE ONE LEADING THEM ON ONE-SIDEDLY, AS IF IKEYA IS THE CRIMINAL
IN SHORT
THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY THAT OOTSUKA IS THE CRIMINAL
.....!!
...HM
YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT BECAUSE HE'S A PERSON THAT MATCHES YOU AND YOUR INTERESTS...
AS IT IS NOW, IT SEEMS DIFFICULT TO UNRAVEL THE SUSPICION

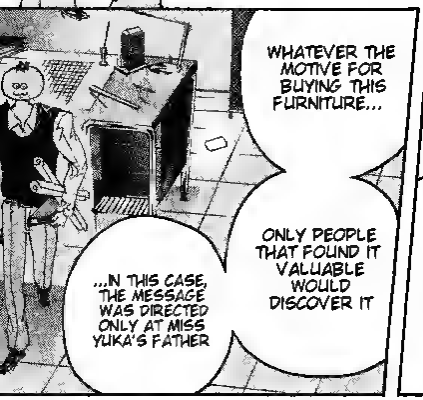
...IT'S FINE, WHATEVER
MISS YUKA!
I'M SO SORRY
EVEN THOUGH I CAME TO SEE BECAUSE I WAS WORRIED, IT TURNED INTO SOMETHING WEIRD
WHY ARE THEY TAKING HIM AWAY?
...I DON'T GET IT
IS THERE ONE THAT HAS THE SAME MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION AS THIS DESK?
THEN, OUT OF THOSE...
MR. IKEYA...
MISS YUKA
WAS THE ONE WHO CAME BY TO SELL FURNITURE TO YOUR FATHER, YES?
...THERE MIGHT BE ONE
THE SAME AS THAT...?
IT SEEMS THEIR TASTES MATCHED
...THAT'S RIGHT
HE WAS ALWAYS MAKING AND BRINGING FURNITURE THAT MATCHED THE OLD MAN'S INTERESTS

NOW THEN...
SHALL WE HAVE A LOOK AT IT
FOR INST-ANCE
THIS ONE FROM THE OLD MAN'S ROOM LOOKS KINDA LIKE THAT
...OF COURSE
SHALL WE GIVE IT A TRY, SENSEI?
IT'S GOT THE SAME MATERIALS AND NUMBER OF DRAWERS
THE DESIGN IS DIFFERENT BUT. .
WE MAY KNOW THE REASON HE CREATED THIS SUBTLE TRICK INSIDE IT
IF THIS FURNITURE HAS THE SAME TRICK TO IT...
スッ
ス
カタン...

!!
A CARD CAME OUT


"I RELINQUISH MY PRECIOUS WOMAN. THIS WOMAN IS ALREADY FOR YOU ALONE.
Je vous laisse ma femme favorite,
Cette femme est seulement à vous
Utilisez s'il vous plait, pour toujours
Toru Ikeya
PLEASE USE HER FOREVER
-----IKEYA TOORU------"

IT'S GOT MR IKEYA'S SIGNATURE ON IT
THIS...
IT'S IN FRENCH
THE OLD MAN WAS THE ONLY ONE IN THE HOUSE THAT COULD READ IT PROPERLY
IF IT'S EASY I CAN READ IT, TOO, BUT
...UM


WHATEVER THE MOTIVE FOR BUYING THIS FURNITURE...
ONLY PEOPLE THAT FOUND IT VALUABLE WOULD DISCOVER IT
...IN THIS CASE, THE MESSAGE WAS DIRECTED ONLY AT MISS YUKA'S FATHER

...!!
IF YOU DIDN'T USE IT FOR A LONG TIME...
YOU WOULDN'T DISCOVER THIS TRICK OR THIS CARD BY ACCIDENT

HE LEFT WORDS OF THANKS TO HIM
SAYING THAT HE COULD PEACEFULLY LEAVE HIS OWN WOMAN TO HIM...
TO THAT PERSON, FURNITURE IS...
CLOSER TO A DAUGHTER THAN A GIRLFRIEND
NEURO
MR. IKEYA MIGHT NOT BE THE CRIMINAL AFTER ALL
A DAUGHTER RAISED WITH AFFECTION...
I WONDER IF THERE WOULD BE SUCH A PARENT THAT WOULD WANT TO LET HER COMMIT MURDER
....
OF COURSE, THAT DESK ... "TROY" AS WELL
...HM
IF THE LITTLE MISLEADING TRICK DID NOT EXIST...
VARIOUS CRIMES COULD NOT BE BLAMED ON IT

TO OBTAIN BOTH THE DESK AND THE "PUZZLE"...
SOMEHOW...

IT SEEMS A LITTLE BIT OF WORK MAY BE NECESSARY
ﾌﾌﾌﾌｯ

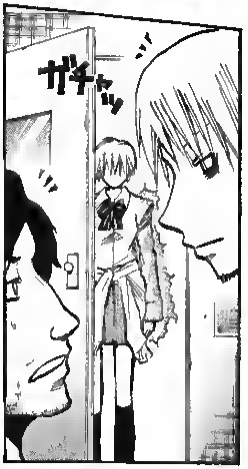
池谷　通【 IKEYA TOORU 】

BIRTHDAY: NOVEMBER 1ST
AGE: 29
HEIGHT: 176 CM
WEIGHT: 72 KG
THE RESPONSE OF CUSTOMERS
WHO BOUGHT HIS FURNITURE:
"HE'S THE BEST"
THE RESPONSE OF WOMEN
HE'S BROUGHT AROUND:
"HE'S THE WORST"
THE MODEL'S NAME: A FRIEND
THE RESPONSE OF THAT FRIEND'S
GIRLFRIEND WHEN SHE HEARD
THAT AND SAW JUMP:
"....."

SERIOUSLY, I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT POISON!!
THIS... IS MAKING IT ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT TO LET YOU GO
WHERE'D YOU EVEN FIND THAT?

CHAPTER 95

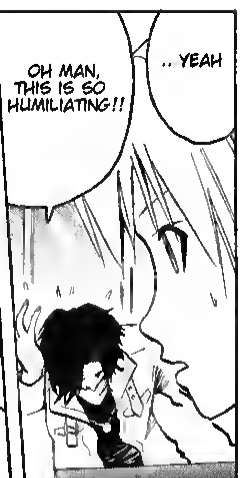
心【PSYCHO LOCK】



TRANSLATION/CLEANING: ANONYMOUS, TYPESETTING: ANONYMOUS. PROOFING: ANONYMOUS
DISTRIBUTE FREELY UNTIL LICENSED TRANSLATIONS EXIST; ANONYMOUS DOES NOT FORGIVE!

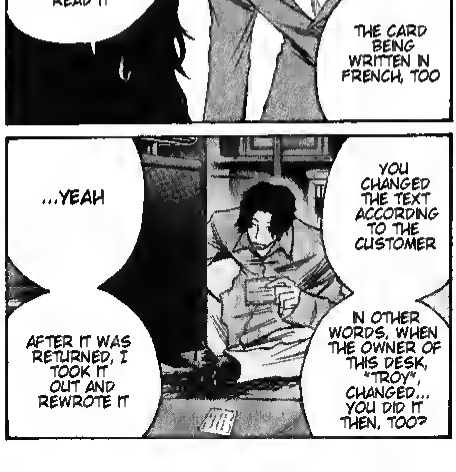
IS IT OKAY, SEMPAI?
THEY JUST ASKED IF THEY COULD COME AND TALK TO HIM
AH, WELL
WELL, IT'S STILL AT THE STAGE WHERE HE CAME TO THE POLICE OFFICE VOLUNTARILY
THEY CAN DO WHATEVER THEY WANT AT THIS POINT
THO-UGH...
IF IT KEEPS GOING THE WAY IT IS NOW, THERE'S NOT MUCH THAT CAN BE DONE
POISON...
FROM YOUR SHOP?
...YEAH
IT'S GRADUALLY GETTING THAT I CAN'T TALK MY WAY OUT OF IT
...AND YOU
WENT AND WORKED OUT THE TRICK
IN THE FURNITURE I SOLD TO ESHIYA...
YOU SAW IT?
THE CARD

THAT MESSAGE IS REALLY...
ONLY MEANT TO BE WORDS BETWEEN ME AND THE CUSTOMER
WHETHER OR NOT I GIVE UP A WOMAN I'M PROUD OF
YOU SEE?
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING TO BRING A THIRD PARTY INTO


OH MAN, THIS IS SO HUMILIATING!!
.. YEAH

OF COURSE
THE CARD BEING WRITTEN IN FRENCH, TOO
WAS BECAUSE YOU ONLY WANTED THE OLD MAN IT WAS DIRECTED TOWARDS TO BE ABLE TO READ IT

...I SEE
THAT'S WHY EVEN THOUGH MR SASAZUKA QUESTIONED HIM ABOUT THE TRICK...
HE DIDN'T LET IT SLIP

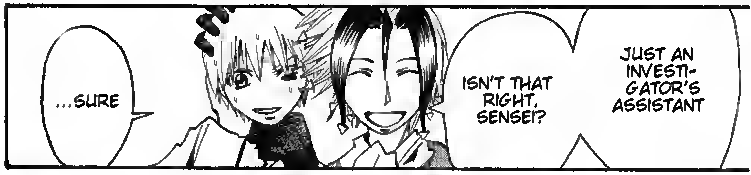

YOU CHANGED THE TEXT ACCORDING TO THE CUSTOMER
IN OTHER WORDS, WHEN THE OWNER OF THIS DESK, "TROY", CHANGED... YOU DID IT THEN, TOO?
...YEAH
AFTER IT WAS RETURNED, I TOOK IT OUT AND REWROTE IT

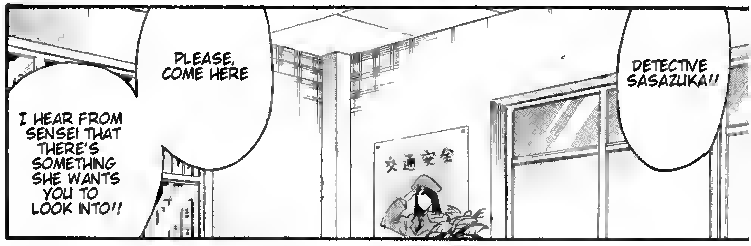
KIND OF PRETENTIOUS, ISN'T IT?
...HEH
I ONLY WANTED TO GIVE MY THANKS TO MY IMPORTANT CLIENTS
BUT...
SUDDENLY ONE DAY, FROM A VALUABLE DESK—
THEY'D BE SENT UNEXPECTED WORDS OF THANKS
THAT WAS CLEVER
...BUT
TO SAY IT LIKE YOU WOULD, MR. IKEYA...
I THINK THE PERSON WHO BOUGHT IT WOULD BE HAPPY ABOUT IT
IT GIVES A DIFFERENT FACE TO THE WOMAN THEY'D HAVE SPENT MANY LONG YEARS WITH
NOT FORGETTING HIS OWN SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND LOVE FOR WHAT HE CREATED..
HE WAS A DELICATE PERSON
AAHHHH... I WANNA SIT ON SOME-BODY.....
PERSONALLY, I HAD THOUGHT THAT TOO, BUT...
IT CHANGED HOW I LOOKED AT HIM A BIT

HUH?
NOW THEN
ENOUGH WITH THE HALF-HEARTED FORMALITIES
IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR US TO TALK ABOUT YOUR REAL INTENTIONS
THIS NO-GOOD MIDDLE-AGED MAN
IS IN A SPOT OF TROUBLE
THAT MAN CALLED OOTSUKA...
CONSIDERING WE'LL GET TO THE TRUTH OF THE CASE
NINE TIMES OUT OF TEN
TRIED TO LURE YOU IN
...HERE IT COMES

...IT CAN'T BE
WHY WOULD HE...?
AND TO HAVE PLACED POISON IN YOUR SHOP
TO GIVE THE DESK AS THE CAUSE
HE MUST HAVE A MOTIVE
.....!!
BOTH THE OVERALL IMPRESSION AND THE MATERIAL EVIDENCE SO THAT THE POLICE WOULD DETERMINE THAT YOU WERE THE CRIMINAL
HE TRIED TO SET UP
IF IT WERE ME...
I WOULD NOT TOLERATE BEING ARRESTED LIKE THIS
YOU HAVE QUITE THE TALENT
WE WILL DISCUSS IT THERE

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU...?
.....
AND IN EXCHANGE...
YOU AND OOTSUKA..
YOUR POSITIONS WILL SWITCH
A SET OF THE NECESSARY FURNISHINGS FOR MY OFFICE...
IS ALL I WILL REQUIRE FROM YOU


...SURE
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, SENSEI?
JUST AN INVESTI-GATOR'S ASSISTANT


I HEAR FROM SENSEI THAT THERE'S SOMETHING SHE WANTS YOU TO LOOK INTO!!
PLEASE, COME HERE
交通安全
DETECTIVE SASAZUKA!!

SOMETHING IN COMMON?
YES
OTHER THAN THE DESK
WAS THERE ANYTHING IN COMMON IN THE VICINITY OF THE TWO VICTIMS?
..IN COMMON ..HMM
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT
BOTH OF THEM HAD PETS, BUT
PETS?
THE DAY BEFORE BOTH OF THEIR DEATHS
I HEARD THAT THOSE PETS DIED FROM THE SAME POISON
IT WAS THOUGHT AT THE TIME THAT THEY WERE TESTING THE STRENGTH OF THE POISON BEFORE THEIR SUICIDE, BUT
IF IT WAS MURDER, WHY WOULD THE CRIMINAL DO THAT..?
SHALL WE GO FOR A WALK, DETECTIVE SASAZUKA?
IF WE GO THERE, PERHAPS...
WE WILL UNDERSTAND ALL OF THE REASONS BEHIND IT

ギッ…
TOO BAD, MR. IKEYA
YOU NEVER UNDERSTOOD US AT ALL
ME, OR THE FURNITURE
ギッ…
HEH, HEH HEH HEH
MR OOTSUKA
THERE'S POLICE IN THE ROOM DOWNSTAIRS CHECKING THING'S OUT
THAT RECENTLY FAMOUS INVESTIGATOR KATSURAGI YAKO, TOO
FINE
BRING THEM HERE
HMPH
……

SORRY FOR BOTHERING YOU AT SUCH A BUSY TIME, MR OOTSUKA!!
HOWEVER, SENSEI WANTED TO SPEAK WITH YOU
NO, NO
I'M CONCERNED, TOO
SINCE I STILL HAVEN'T HEARD FROM MR. IKEYA...
HOW ABOUT THAT, HUH?
NEVER THOUGHT HE'D BE SOME CRIMINAL, I GUESS
OF COURSE NOT
IT MAY BE UNFORTUNATE FOR YOU TO HEAR THIS, BUT

THE CRIMINAL...
IS YOU!!
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT
NOW NOW NOW...
...PFFT
THE ONE WHO MADE IT LOOK LIKE MR. IKEYA WAS THE CRIMINAL
WHILE TWO PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN PREPARATION
OF COURSE SENSEI NEVER LIES
WAS YOU, MR. OOTSUKA

NO, MR. OO-TSUKA
THE POSSIBILITY THAT YOU ARE THE CRIMINAL...
SHOULD BE ESSENTIALLY EQUAL
IF YOU'RE GOING TO THINK OF ME AS A CRIMINAL...
...NAH
MR. IKEYA WOULD BE FAR MORE LIKELY
BUT
YOU WERE THERE JUST BEFORE THE POLICE CAME
LIKE YOU'D PLANNED OUT WHEN TO COME TO MR IKEYA'S SHOP
AND LEAVE THE POLICE WITH A BAD IMPRESSION OF MR IKEYA
FREAK
PLUS
THE POISON THAT WAS FOUND AT HIS SHOP
THEN, MORE-OVER
THROUGH THE DESK THAT MR. IKEYA CREATED AND LOOKED AFTER.
THERE WAS A COMMONALITY BETWEEN THE VICTIMS THAT DIED
BY THESE MEANS...
IT CLEARLY SOLIDIFIED TO THE POLICE THAT MR. IKEYA = CRIMINAL

SPLENDID THINGS AREN'T THEY?
AN AMOUNT OF FURNITURE CERTAINLY NOT INFERIOR TO MR. IKEYA'S
ON OUR WAY TO THIS ROOM...
WE LOOKED AROUND YOUR SHOP
...HEH
EVEN IF YOU KNEW MR. IKEYA'S FURNITURE...
YOU COULDN'T OPEN THESE ONES
THOUGH BECAUSE THE PRO-CEDURE FOR OPENING THE DRAWER SEEMS TO BE DIFFERENT
IT'S TRUE I LEARNED THAT TECHNIQUE FROM MR. IKEYA BUT
I DIDN'T TOUCH.
THAT "TROY" CREATION OF MR. IKEYA'S
...AND WHAT OF IT?
AS EXPECTED
IF YOU LISTENED TO THE SALES-PEOPLE...
AS MR. IKEYA'S
THE FURNITURE HAS THE SAME TRICK TO IT

.....
HE CAN'T TRY TO BLAME IT ON HIM ANY MORE
IF SOME-ONE DIED BY THAT DESK
THERE'S NOBODY ELSE TO BE SUSPICIOUS OF BUT MR IKEYA, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
AND IF THAT'S THE CASE, SURELY
YOU SHOWED THAT DESK'S... TRICK...
TO THE VICTIM BEFORE-HAND, DIDN'T YOU?
NO, NO
THE DESKS YOU MADE WERE, IN THE END, JUST FOR SHOW
AFTER HE SAW THE TRICK HERE, HE WAS INTRODUCED TO MR IKEYA'S SHOP, CORRECT?
HIS NAME AND ADDRESS ARE ON YOUR SHOP'S CUSTOMER LIST
WE INVES-TIGATED THE SECOND CUSTOMER TOO...
IT IS POSSIBLE YOU SHOWED HIM WHILE MR IKEYA WASN'T LOOKING
THE FIRST CUSTOMER WAS A FREQUENT CLIENT OF MR IKEYA'S SHOP WHEN YOU WERE THERE, TOO

MR. IKEYA WAS SILENT TO THE CUSTOMER ABOUT THE TRICK BUT
YOU SHOWED IT TO THEM
THE TRICK YOU MADE TO THE DESKS HAD A DIFFERENT WAY OF OPENING IT
THIS WAS THE FIRST HINT
THE OTHER HINT WAS...
THE SUSPICIOUS DEATHS OF THE VICTIMS' PETS
YOU...
CHECKED OUT THE VICTIM'S ADDRESS AND DAILY ROUTINE
AND TARGETED THEM WHEN THEY ARRIVED HOME ALONE
THESE WERE THE TWO HINTS YOU GAVE TO THE VICTIMS
THAT WOULD AT THE VERY LEAST INSTILL FEAR IN THE OWNER
A PET THAT WAS HEALTHY SUDDENLY DIED...
DON'T MOVE
HOLD STILL

...OKAY
THAT SHOULD BE GOOD
!! URR-GHH
ガ ガッ ッ
BY WHAT-EVER MEANS
WHEN THE VICTIM SHOWED SYMPTOMS OF POISONING
YOU WERE SUCCESSFUL AT MAKING THEM ABSORB THE POISON
YOU WOULD HAVE SOFTLY WHISPERED THESE WORDS
THE POISON IS THE SAME THAT YOUR DOG DIED FROM
YOU'LL DIE IN TEN MINUTES
...BUT THERE'S A WAY YOU CAN SAVE YOURSELF
THE ANTIDOTE IS HIDDEN
SOMEWHERE IN THE DESK YOU BOUGHT

LIKE THE PSYCHOLOGY YOU USED TO GUIDE THE POLICE...
YOU CLEVERLY USED PSYCHOLOGY TO GUIDE THE VICTIMS, TOO
UNTIL THEY TOOK THEIR LAST BREATH
DEEP INSIDE THEIR HEAD
WAS INGRAINED THE STRENGTH OF THE POISON AND THE DESK'S CONTRAPTION
IF YOU CAME THERE AND SAID THOSE WORDS
THEY WOULD DESPERATELY SEARCH AROUND THE DESK
AS IF RESTING THEIR FINAL HOPE ON IT...
GIVING IT THE LOOK OF THE DESK BEING THE CRIMINAL
THE SOLE MATERIAL EVIDENCE, THAT POISON...
IF YOU CAME INTO MR. IKEYA'S SHOP OFTEN...
IT WOULD BE EASY TO HIDE

I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO SHOW..
THESE GUYS TOO...
ギ
WHAT I WOULD CALL PERFECTED FURNITURE

HOW TO MAKE TWO-MINUTE MENTSUYU SOUP BASE

① ADD 1-2 OF MIRIN FOR EVERY 2 OF SOY SAUCE

② ADD ONE PACKAGE OF KATSUO FLAKES

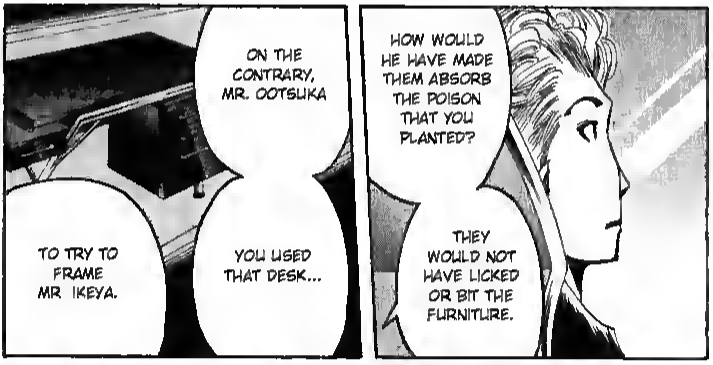
③ MICROWAVE FOR ONE MINUTE TO LET THE ALCOHOL EVAPORATE

④ WHILE IT'S STILL HOT, ADD IN REFRIGERATED GRATED GINGER AND CHOPPED-UP FROZEN ONION

⑤ ADD 2-3 TIMES THE AMOUNT OF WATER

⑥ THIS IS THE STANDARD ITEM I HAVE DURING WORK, WITH SOMEN NOODLES

CHAPTER 96
新【NEW】
IN BRIEF
MR. IKEYA
AND "TROY" THAT HE CREATED...
HAVE BEEN FALSELY ACCUSED
IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO HAVE PUT POISON IN THE DESK


ON THE CONTRARY, MR. OOTSUKA
YOU USED THAT DESK...
TO TRY TO FRAME MR. IKEYA.
HOW WOULD HE HAVE MADE THEM ABSORB THE POISON THAT YOU PLANTED?
THEY WOULD NOT HAVE LICKED OR BIT THE FURNITURE.

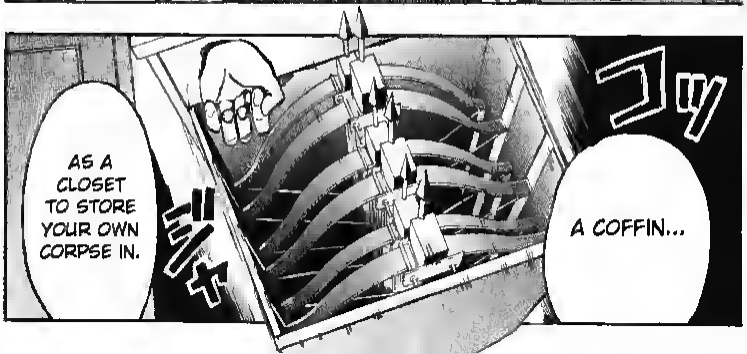
YOUR TRICK OF RELYING SIMPLY ON PSYCHOLOGY TO GUIDE THE POLICE..
INSTEAD BECAME WHAT TRIPPED YOU UP.
THINKING ABOUT IT LIKE THAT
IF YOU MAKE A GUESS ABOUT THE WAY THE SUSPICIOUS DEATHS COULD HAVE BEEN MADE TO OCCUR NEAR THE DESK...

TRANSLATION: ANONYMOUS, EDITING: ANONYMOUS, CLEANING: ANONYMOUS DISTRIBUTE FREELY UNTIL LICENSED TRANSLATIONS EXIST. ANONYMOUS DOES NOT FINANCIALLY

CH'.
IN THAT CASE, IT'S EASIER TO...
JUST SHOW YOU THE IDEAL FURNITURE.
.....
!?
THAT'S ENOUGH.....
IN THE END, IT ALL GOT TO BE MORE DIFFICULT TO THE POINT WHERE...
I FAILED TO LEAD YOU ALONG PSYCHO-LOGICALLY.
ギシッ
NOT ONLY TO REMOVE MYSELF FROM SUSPICION...
BUT ALSO TO DRIVE MR IKEYA TO HUMILIATION AND DESTRUCTION TOO.
MR. IKEYA IS A MAN WITH AN EXCELLENT SENSE FOR IT BUT...
HE LACKS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART!!
THAT IS TO SAY
THE UNDERSTANDING AND LOVE OF FURNITURE!!

FURTHER-MORE!!
USING WOMEN AS FURNITURE IS ITSELF AN OUTRAGEOUS HERESY!!
ラッ!!
THE PROOF IS THAT HE QUIT MAKING FURNITURE SO EASILY!!
ガシャ
バキ
ズボ
ズボ
WHEN THEY BECOME ONE, IT STARTS TO BE PERFECT!!
FURNITURE IS ALL ABOUT THE FIT!!
FURNITURE CONTROLS PEOPLE, PEOPLE CONTROL FURNITURE!!
COULDN'T CREATE...
THE SHAPE OF THE PERFECT FURNITURE.
IN OTHER WORDS, EVEN HE

THERE'S ONLY ONE PIECE OF FURNITURE MADE...
FOR PEOPLE THAT CAN'T COMPREHEND THIS BEAUTY.


A COFFIN...
AS A CLOSET TO STORE YOUR OWN CORPSE IN.

ドカカカッ!!
WAH
IT'S THE TRUTH...
THAT NOT A SINGLE PERSON UNDERSTANDS.
WHA...
WHAT A CRAZY...
THE PEOPLE AND THE FURNITURE DIDN'T MESH FROM THE VERY BEGINNING
I GUESS HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE GOOD TO GRADUALLY TRAIN THEM TO HIS OWN TASTES
WELL...
I DON'T REALLY USE A DESK THOUGH.
IT'S FOR WHEN YOU HAVE A GIRL OVER AT YOUR PLACE.
IF YOU HAVE A NICE DESK, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE A SENSE OF STYLE

COULD A PHILOSOPHER PULL TOGETHER A GREAT IDEA ON A DISTURBING DESK!?
WOULD THE QUEEN OF A NATION LEAVE A VALUABLE NECKLACE OUT IN THE OPEN WITHOUT STORING IT SOMEWHERE!?
PERFECTED FURNITURE IS CREATED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY OF THE HUMAN RACE!!
FURNITURE THAT HAD HEART'S BLOOD POURED INTO IT SO IT COULD BECOME ONE WITH THE OWNER!!
YOU LOOK AT PUTTING TOGETHER A SET OF IT TOO LIGHTLY!!
IF YOU REMEMBER IT, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL SOMEDAY.
THERE WAS THAT LITTLE TRICK TO THE FURNITURE.
I'LL BRING ABOUT THEIR DESTRUCTION WITH THE POWER OF FURNITURE!!
CAN'T DEVELOP OR BECOME SECURE!!
PEOPLE THAT TAKE FURNITURE SO LIGHTLY...

YOU CAN BUY THE SAME TRICK DESK CHEAPLY, SECONDHAND.
THERE'S A DESK WITH A HISTORY BEHIND IT AT THE SHOP OF SOMEONE I KNOW.
AH, BUT LET'S KEEP IT A SECRET, BOTH ABOUT THE TRICK AND ABOUT ME TELLING YOU ABOUT HIM.
AFTER I GIVE YOU YOUR FINAL COFFIN
WHILE IN THE POSITION OF MAKING FURNITURE...
THE MISTAKE THAT MR. IKEYA MADE WAS A SERIOUS CRIME.
スッ
CHARGED WITH THAT CRIME, I'D THOUGHT I WOULD SLOWLY BRING ABOUT HIS DESTRUCTION BUT
I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED, IN THIS SITUATION!!
I'LL GO KILL HIM DIRECTLY AFTERWARDS!!
バァ
WHY WOULD HE GO THIS FAR JUST TO MAKE A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT POINT...
...IT CAN'T BE

.....WH..T?
OR ELSE YOU WOULD HAVE FUSED WITH ALL OF YOUR FURNITURE.
YOU CANNOT SAY THAT THIS AMOUNT OF FUSION IS PERFECT
IMPERFECT, IS IT NOT.
ゴゴゴゴ
!?
COULD IT BE AN EARTHQUAKE.
BY THE WAY...
OH MY.

THE NUMBER OF TOOLS THAT CONSUME A VAST AMOUNT OF DAEMONIC ENERGY HAVE BEEN SITTING AROUND GATHERING DUST.
..PERFECT.
PERHAPS I WILL "AIR THEM OUT"
WHILE HAL'S "PUZZLE" REMAINS IN MY STOMACH...
ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ
AS IF THEY HAD BEEN STORED AWAY INSIDE FURNITURE
THAT'S GOING TOO FAR ..
NEURO, WAIT A...

777 Weapons of the Daemon Emperor: EVIL TREE
バキ
GBAH
バキバキ
GAH...

ゴゴゴゴ…
WHAT A TERRIBLE EARTHQUAKE.
…WHEW
…BUT THERE IS HAPPINESS IN UNHAPPINESS
IT SEEMS HE CAN BECOME ONE WITH MORE FURNITURE THAN EVER BEFORE
THAT'S TRUE, BUT
……
…IT'S A BIT OF A MESS.

IS THAT RIGHT.
OOTSUKA... HE DID THAT.
HE'D ADMIRED YOUR TALENT SINCE HE WAS YOUNG
AND WHEN YOU SO LIGHTLY THREW AWAY THE CAREER THAT YOUR TALENT HAD BUILT....
HE ENVIED YOU INSTEAD.
HIS MAIN POINT WASN'T CLEAR BUT...
PROBABLY
HE WAS SIMPLY JUST BLINDED BY YOUR TALENTS, I GUESS.
HUH?
...ON THE CONTRARY, I WAS BLINDED BY HIS TALENT.
IT WAS DUE TO SEEING THE GROWTH OF HIS WORKS
DUE TO CREATING "TROY" TOO BUT
WHAT MADE ME STOP CREATING FURNITURE WAS...
"AH, I WOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN THE TROUBLE TO MAKE THAT"

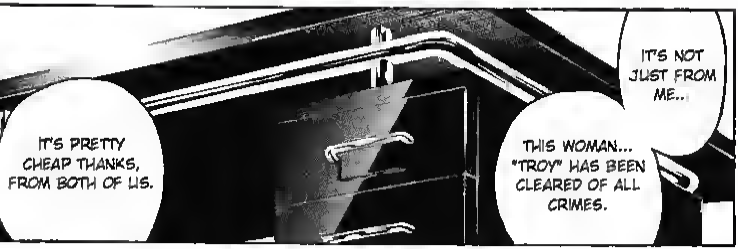
.....
THAT SOMEWHERE IN THE WORLD...
THERE WOULD BE SOMEONE WHO WOULD MAKE A "WOMAN" I LIKED FOR ME.
...ER.
BUT WILL IT BE OKAY, MR. IKEYA?
DOING THAT WOULD BE AT A HUGE LOSS TO YOU.
...IT'S FINE.
AND ANYWAY
ポン
I'LL MAKE THE FURNITURE YOU GUYS WANTED FOR YOU
I PROMISED, I PROMISED.
...I KNOW
I KNEW THAT "TROY" WAS FALSELY ACCUSED, TOO...
TO GET RID OF THE STOCK I HAVE IN THE SHOP...
AND BEGIN WORK MAKING FURNITURE AGAIN.
SO WHEN I WAS TALKING WITH YOU TWO, THE FEELING SURGED UP IN ME AGAIN

I WON'T GIVE UP AFTER "TROY"...
FOR THE SAKE OF CHURNING OUT GOOD "WOMEN."
.....
YEAH.
YUKA!
...I HEARD ABOUT IT FROM THOSE INVESTI-GATORS.
GLAD TO HEAR YOU MADE IT. YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE A LIVING OTHERWISE.
WELL THEN, DO AS REQUESTED.
IF YOU DO NOT GATHER IT TOGETHER WITHIN THREE DAYS YOU WILL BE FALSELY ACCUSED AGAIN.
SHUT UP, I KNOW, I KNOW.
...MAN, THOSE GUYS ARE DANGEROUS
...GEEZ
AND HERE I WAS, DOUBTING YOU AS USUAL.
...HOW EMBAR-RASSING.
HEY, PSEUDO-CRIMINAL.

AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF, THAT USELESS MESSAGE CARD AND ALL...
SORTA LIKE
STICKING WEIRD THINGS IN THERE MAKES YOU KINDA LIKE THE OLD MAN.
AH?
YUKA, COULD YOU HAVE BEEN WORRIED?
IF YOU HAPPENED TO COME TO THE FRONT OF MY SHOP...
WHO'D BE WORRIED ABOUT YOU!!
I'M JUST HERE TO PREVENT A SECOND OFFENSE!!
IT'S JUST MY STYLE, SO...
SHUT UP!
YOU'RE TOO OLD TO BE DOING STUFF LIKE THAT.
HM?
UGH.
STUFF IT.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME...
IT'S OKAY, YOU CAN TELL YOUR BIG BROTHER HERE.
I SEE, I SEE, JUST THAT SORT OF FEELING, YOU SAY.
I SAID NO
ONCE A YEAR?
WELL, ONCE A MONTH
OF COURSE NOT!!
A PACE OF ONCE A WEEK SHOULD BE GOOD.
I CAN SIT ON YOU NOW, RIGHT?

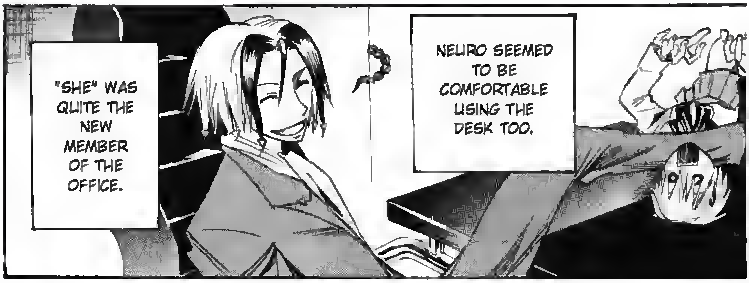
THREE DAYS LATER
WOW!!

THANKS A LOT, MR. IKEYA!
IT'S FINE.
IT'S GREAT!!
IT'S LIKE THE WHOLE ROOM WAS REBORN IN ONE SHOT!
AS FOR THE WINDOW, I TOOK CARE OF IT WITH MY DEALER'S CONNECTIONS.
AND THAT'S JUST AT FIRST GLANCE.
AH, NO...
I THINK IT'LL BE FINE.
SURE YOU DON'T WANT THE WALLPAPER REPLACED?
YOU'LL HAVE TO DO IT EVENTUALLY.


IT'S NOT JUST FROM ME...
THIS WOMAN... "TROY" HAS BEEN CLEARED OF ALL CRIMES.
IT'S PRETTY CHEAP THANKS, FROM BOTH OF US.

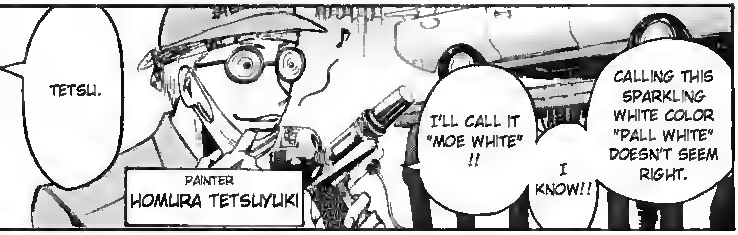
...REALLY
EVEN THOUGH PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CLEARED OF CRIMES...
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME A DESK HAD BEEN CLEARED OF A CRIME.

I MADE SOME PROGRESS STUDYING WITH THIS DESK.
AND I PUT THINGS I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE...
DEEP INSIDE THE DRAWERS
EITHER INTENDED AS THANKS ...
OR DUE TO THE MIASMA THAT HAD ACCUMULATED IN IT
"TROY" WAS A BIT OF A MYSTERIOUS DESK.

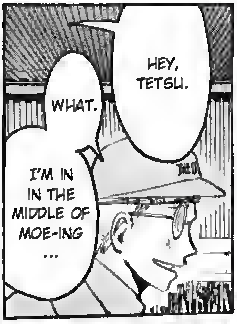

"SHE" WAS QUITE THE NEW MEMBER OF THE OFFICE.
NEURO SEEMED TO BE COMFORTABLE USING THE DESK TOO.

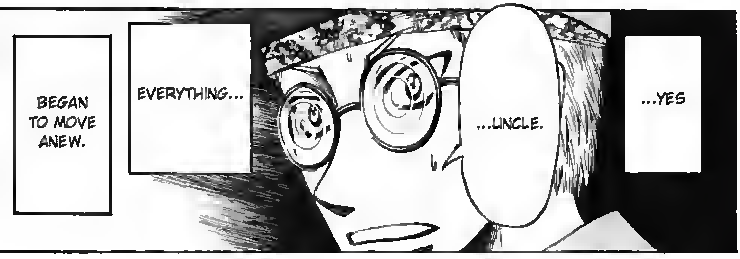
WE MOVED FROM OUR TIMES IN THE PAST
IN ADDITION TO GAINING A NEW MEMBER AFTER THE HAL CASE WAS OVER
AND EVERYTHING BEGAN TO REVOLVE ANEW.

MADARAME PAINTING
AH...
WHAT A NICE JOB.
CAR-TAN..
MOE~...


TETSU.
PAINTER
HOMURA TETSUYUKI
I'LL CALL IT "MOE WHITE" !!
I KNOW!!
CALLING THIS SPARKLING WHITE COLOR "PALL WHITE" DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT.

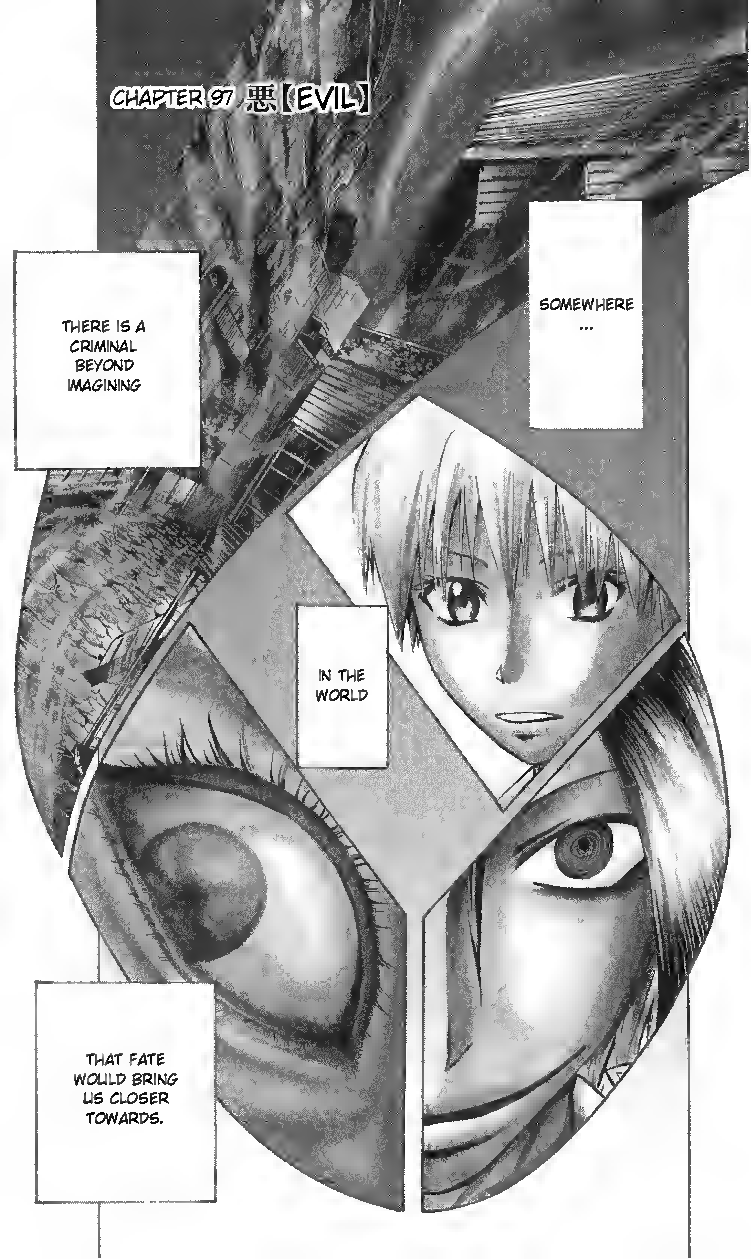
YO
LONG TIME NO SEE.
NATIONALLY WANTED CRIMINAL
KASAI ZENJIROU
XXX


HEY, TETSU.
WHAT.
I'M IN IN THE MIDDLE OF MOE-ING ...


BEGAN TO MOVE ANEW.
EVERYTHING...
...UNCLE.
...YES

絵石家　由香【ESHIYA YUKA】

BIRTHDATE:	OCTOBER 28
AGE:	19
HEIGHT:	162 CM
WEIGHT:	49 KG
PET PHRASE:	"GROSS."
OFTEN SAID ABOUT HER:	"SHE HAS A MENACNG GLARE."
THE RESULT OF TRYING TO GET A CUTE PHOTO TAKEN OVER A WHOLE HOUR:	THE ABOVE PICTURE.


CHAPTER 97 悪【EVIL】
SOMEWHERE ...
THERE IS A CRIMINAL BEYOND IMAGINING
IN THE WORLD
THAT FATE WOULD BRING US CLOSER TOWARDS.

CHAPTER 97 悪【EVIL】

ACTUALLY, IT LETS ME WALK AROUND OPENLY.
WITH THE WAY THEY, IN THEIR PRIDE, HAVE KEPT IT FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC.
HIHIHI
THOSE POLICE
THEY'VE ONLY BEEN TAUGHT HOW TO FIND THIEVES AND TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS.
UNCLE...
IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO BE SHOWING UP LIKE THIS?
POLICE ALL OVER THE COUNTRY HAVE SEEN YOUR PHOTO.

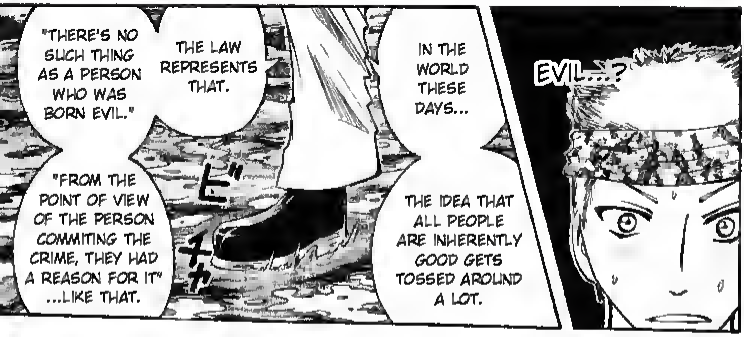
TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: WHEN KASAI LAUGHS, EACH "HI" NOISE IS WRITTEN WITH THE KANJI FOR "FIRE."

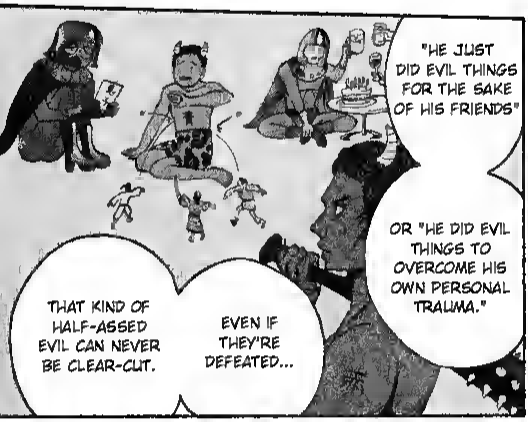
TRANSLATION: ANONYMOUS. EDITING: ANONYMOUS. CLEANING: ANONYMOUS. DISTRIBUTE FREELY UNTIL LICENSED TRANSLATIONS EXIST. ANONYMOUS DOES NOT FORGIVE!

YOU GOT...
TAKEN IN BY THE ELECTRONIC DRUG, DIDN'T YA
...AND?
HUH?
HOW WAS IT?
WHAT?
EVER SINCE YOU WERE A KID, I IMPRESSED UPON YOU ADMIRATION FOR FIRE.
I THOUGHT IT WOULD HAVE BLOSSOMED ALL IN ONE SHOT WITH THE DRUG BUT
TETSU.
I TAUGHT YOU ABOUT THE ATTRACTION OF FIRE SINCE YOU WERE ONE YEAR OLD.
.....
AFTER I SAW THE VACCINE, WELL
I DON'T HAVE MOST OF MY MEMORIES FROM THAT TIME BUT
I HEARD FROM MY PARENTS ABOUT MOST OF WHAT I DID.
YOU'RE NOT GONNA...
TURN YOURSELF IN, ARE YOU?
...UNCLE

I'M NOT GOING TO TURN THAT FIRE...
AGAINST ANYONE EVER AGAIN.
I DON'T WANT TO COMMIT CRIMES.
AFTER ALL
SO...
I KIND OF HATE FIRE NOW.
BUT...
WHEN I THINK ABOUT ALL THE PEOPLE I HURT WITH MY FIRES...
I FEEL LIKE I REALLY HATE IT.
I FIGURED WE COULD TRY BEING BUDDIES BUT
TOO BAD, TETSU.
IF YOU'D GROWN TO LIKE IT, LIKE ME...
...I SEE.

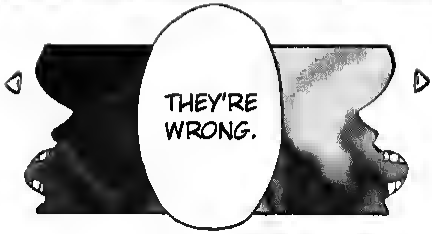
!
ニヤニヤ
UNCLE, THERE'S FLAMMABLE STUFF AROUND HERE...
GUESS YOU WERE STILL A LONG WAY FROM BEING LIKE ME.
WHEN YOU GOT CAUGHT UP SO EASILY IN THE ELECTRONIC DRUG AND COMMITED YOUR CRIMES...
WELL ...
BUDDIES ?
!!?
THAT DRUG...
DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE ENOUGH STRENGTH
TO MAKE IT INTO THE BRAIN OF A TRUE CRIMINAL LIKE ME.
ORGANIC SOLVENT
FLAMMABLE
HEY, TETSU.
HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT "EVIL"?


"THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A PERSON WHO WAS BORN EVIL."
THE LAW REPRESENTS THAT.
"FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE PERSON COMMITING THE CRIME, THEY HAD A REASON FOR IT" ...LIKE THAT.
IN THE WORLD THESE DAYS...
THE IDEA THAT ALL PEOPLE ARE INHERENTLY GOOD GETS TOSSED AROUND A LOT.
EVIL...?

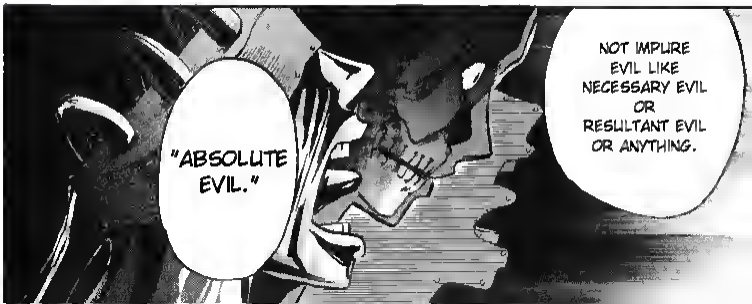

"HE JUST DID EVIL THINGS FOR THE SAKE OF HIS FRIENDS"
OR "HE DID EVIL THINGS TO OVERCOME HIS OWN PERSONAL TRAUMA."
EVEN IF THEY'RE DEFEATED...
THAT KIND OF HALF-ASSED EVIL CAN NEVER BE CLEAR-CUT.

YOU'VE PROBABLY SEEN IT IN MANGA AND MOVIES, HAVEN'T YOU?
ALL THOSE FINAL BOSSES THAT SEEM LIKE "HE WAS ACTUALLY A GOOD GUY."

.....
ANYWAY, IT'S GOTTEN TO BE THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED OPINION THAT NOBODY IN THIS WORLD IS PURE "EVIL."


THEY'RE WRONG.

IT EXISTS.
"EVIL."


NOT IMPURE EVIL LIKE NECESSARY EVIL OR RESULTANT EVIL OR ANYTHING.
"ABSOLUTE EVIL."

WEARING AN EXPRESSION LIKE...
"I WONDER WHICH ELEMENT OF THIS WAS LEADING PEOPLE ASTRAY?"
THAT PERSON JUST WATCHED THE ELECTRONIC DRUG THAT MADE EVEN MY QUESTIONABLE SOUL WAVER...
WHILE GRINNING
ALL WHILE SITTING IN A FAVORITE PIECE OF FURNITURE HE GOT RECENTLY.
JUST BEING WITH HIM...
FILLS ME WITH THE URGE TO THROW UP
AND IT GETS THAT I'M DISGUSTED WITH EVEN BEING ALIVE.
...EVEN THEN, HIS "EVIL" IS CHARISMATIC ENOUGH THAT I CAN'T GET AWAY FROM IT.

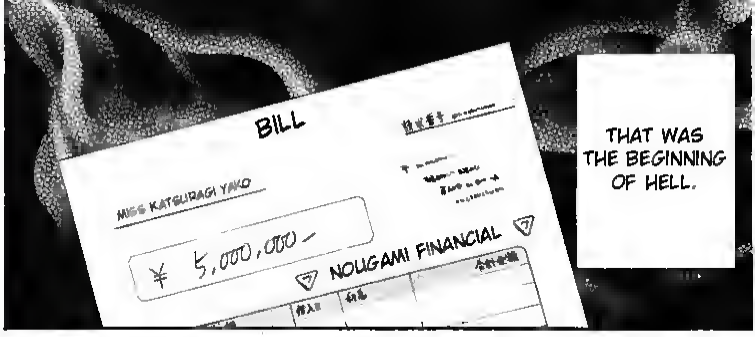
...UNCLE, IT CAN'T BE
CHARISMATIC EVIL...
...WHAT CAME TO MIND WAS
I FIGURED I'D TAKE YOU TO HIM BUT
IF YOU WERE DOING A GOOD JOB..
GUESS I'VE BEEN DISAPPOINTED.

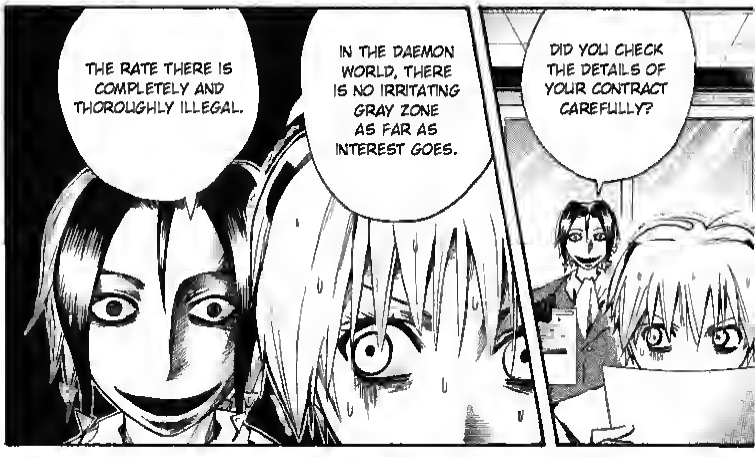
IT'S GOING TO CATCH FIRE...
!!
...NO.
バッ
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND SOMEDAY.
HIHIHIHI
.....
HOW CONSID-ERATE.

PROBABLY NEVER UNDERSTAND HIM.
YOU'LL...
パチ
パチ
パチ
チガチ...
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, TETSU.
WELL...
HAVE A PEACEFUL LIFE.
...!!

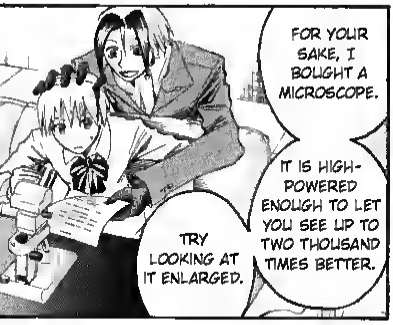
THE OFFICE WAS NEWLY RENOVATED AND OPEN FOR BUSINESS.
IT SHOULD HAVE STARTED OFF WITH A NEW FEEL TO IT BUT...
THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING I COULDN'T FIND THE ANSWER FOR...
IT WAS A MAJOR PROBLEM.
FUNDS: 31 YEN
I DIDN'T HAVE
パン
ANY MONEY.

IT WAS ALL HIS FAULT.
ハラッ
HERE YOU GO, YAKO.
A LOVE LETTER FROM MYSELF.
THE AMOUNT WAS 1,500,000 YEN!!
WHEN HE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY, HE MESSED AROUND UNDER MY NAME AND BORROWED MONEY FROM A CONSUMER CREDIT BUREAU.
WHEN WE BOUGHT THAT HIGH-PRICED HELICOPTER IN THE BATTLE WITH HAL...
WHAT.
NOT ENOUGH MONEY, YOU SAY.
THAT WAS WHEN
THOUGH I PAID BACK NINTY PERCENT OF THAT WITH INVESTIGATION JOBS AFTER THAT...
THE TIME LIMIT FOR REPAYMENT WAS LOOMING OVER MY HEAD!!
ほっ
REALLY!?
I'M SAVED!!
I SUPPOSE IT CANNOT BE HELPED.
I SHALL LEND YOU WHAT YOU REQUIRE FOR NOW.

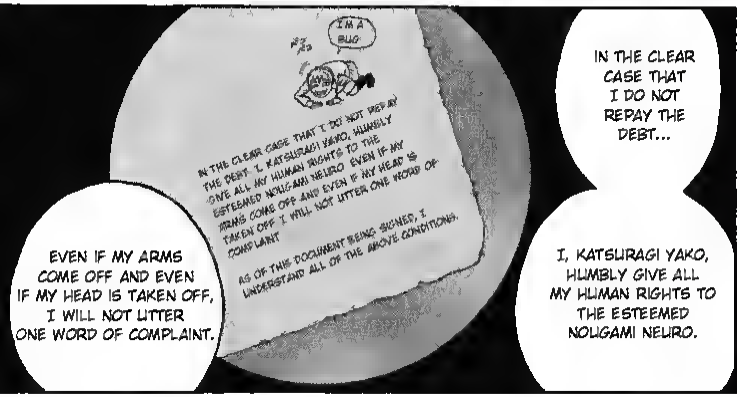

BILL
MISS KATSURAGI YAKO
¥ 5,000,000-
NOUGAMI FINANCIAL
THAT WAS THE BEGINNING OF HELL.


THE RATE THERE IS COMPLETELY AND THOROUGHLY ILLEGAL.
IN THE DAEMON WORLD, THERE IS NO IRRITATING GRAY ZONE AS FAR AS INTEREST GOES.
DID YOU CHECK THE DETAILS OF YOUR CONTRACT CAREFULLY?

...LOOK HERE ON THE CONTRACT.
WHATEVER THE REASON, A CONTRACT IS A CONTRACT.
IT IS YOUR DUTY TO COMPLETE IT.
THIS IS THE AMOUNT OF MONEY YOU BORROWED IN THE FIRST PLACE, ISN'T IT!!
WAIT A... HOLD ON!?
MAKING THIS MY FAULT IS...


FOR YOUR SAKE, I BOUGHT A MICROSCOPE.
IT IS HIGH-POWERED ENOUGH TO LET YOU SEE UP TO TWO THOUSAND TIMES BETTER.
TRY LOOKING AT IT ENLARGED.

...WHAT'S THAT?
LOOKS LIKE A TINY LITTLE STAIN ON THE PAPERWORK...
IS IT DIFFICULT TO SEE?


I'M A BUG
IN THE CLEAR CASE THAT I DO NOT REPAY THE DEBT I, KATSURAGI YAKO, HUMBLY GIVE ALL MY HUMAN RIGHTS TO THE ESTEEMED NOUGAMI NEURO EVEN IF MY ARMS COME OFF AND EVEN IF MY HEAD IS TAKEN OFF I WILL NOT UTTER ONE WORD OF COMPLAINT
AS OF THIS DOCUMENT BEING SIGNED, I UNDERSTAND ALL OF THE ABOVE CONDITIONS.
IN THE CLEAR CASE THAT I DO NOT REPAY THE DEBT...
I, KATSURAGI YAKO, HUMBLY GIVE ALL MY HUMAN RIGHTS TO THE ESTEEMED NOUGAMI NEURO.
EVEN IF MY ARMS COME OFF AND EVEN IF MY HEAD IS TAKEN OFF, I WILL NOT UTTER ONE WORD OF COMPLAINT.

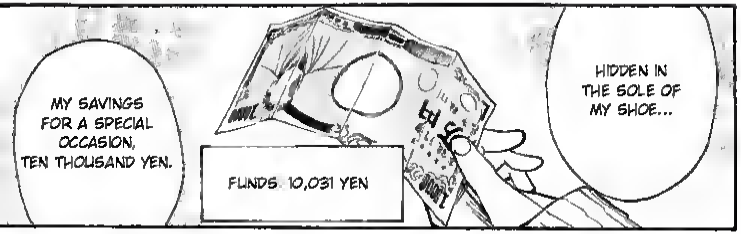
THAT'D BE A GOOD PLACE FOR MORE TRICKERY!!
EVEN THE INTEREST RATE IS WRITTEN SO SMALL YOU CAN'T MAKE IT OUT!!
YOU CANNOT REPAY IT?
OH MY.

THE LETTERS ARE SMALLER THAN PLANKTON!!
YOU EXPECTED ME TO SEE THAT--
YOU HAVE TO READ CAREFULLY.
SO AS I SAID
YOU EVEN WENT SO FAR AS TO DRAWN AN ILLUSTRATION!!

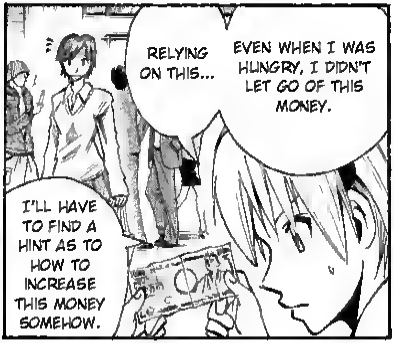
YOU CAN CLEAN THE FILTHY FLOOR WITH YOUR CHEEK UNTIL IT SPARKLES.
SLAK
THEN IMMEDIATELY
"I AM LOWER THAN A FUNGUS, BUT I WILL TRY MY HARDEST TO MAKE IT CLEAN" ...WHILE YOU SAY THAT AND THANK ME WITH A SMILE.
"MY APOLOGIES FOR WALKING ALL OVER IT."
JUST LIKE WITH THE TEST, WHEN HE MADE THE LOAN...
HIS WHOLE GOAL...
HE WAS PLANNING TO MAKE ME SUBMIT, NO MATTER WHAT!!
IS TO TRY TO MAKE ME INTO HIS SLAVE!!
はは
はは
THAT WAS HIS GOAL
FROM THE BEGINNING!!
.....
IT MIGHT BE AMUSING TO COLLECT A BIT MORE...
NOW WHAT SHOULD I DO?
THERE WE GO.

DON'T TAKE ME SO LIGHTLY!!
YOU DON'T THINK...
I CAN RETURN EVEN THIS AMOUNT OF MONEY?
DON'T BE STUPID!!
ばッ
WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND.
...OHO.
IF I HAVE A LITTLE TIME...
I'LL SHOW YOU I CAN GET THAT AMOUNT OF MONEY TOGETHER SOON!!
AH.
I'LL FIGURE OUT SOMETHING!!

バタン!!
HEH HEH HEH
……
BECAUSE YOU'RE MAKING MY FACE TWITCH!!
I'M JUST SORRY I EVER BORROWED FROM YOU!!
ズン
ズン
…BUT EVEN THOUGH I SAID THAT…
…WHAT AM I GOING TO DO …
ADDING TO MY LACK OF MONEY…
I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEAS…
…MY LAST RESORT IS


MY SAVINGS FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION, TEN THOUSAND YEN.
FUNDS 10,031 YEN
HIDDEN IN THE SOLE OF MY SHOE...

AH.
YAKO!
GEEZ--- I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.


RELYING ON THIS...
EVEN WHEN I WAS HUNGRY, I DIDN'T LET GO OF THIS MONEY.
I'LL HAVE TO FIND A HINT AS TO HOW TO INCREASE THIS MONEY SOMEHOW.

THE OPPOSITE, THE EXACT OPPOSITE!!
YOU KNOW THAT MONEY YOU BORROWED FROM ME FOR DINNER?
WELL, YOU CAN GIVE IT BACK TO ME TODAY.
ぽし

AH.
KANAE!
WHAT'S UP?
HAVE YOU GOT SOME KIND OF GOOD NEWS FOR ME?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?

YOUR EXCUSE IS THAT YOU'RE SUFFERING!!
NO, I WAS JUST HOLDING ONTO THAT!!
WELL, I'M SUFFERING THIS MONTH TOO!!
I'M FIVE MILLION YEN IN DEBT RIGHT NOW...

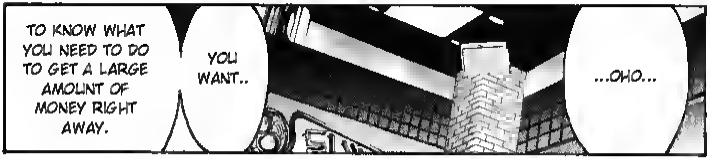
WAIT A...

SINCE YOU BORROWED EIGHT THOUSAND YEN, I'LL TAKE THIS TEN THOUSAND ...
RIGHT.
YOUR CHANGE, TWO THOUSAND YEN.

FUNDS. 2,031 YEN
.....
HAS BEEN A BIT OF A SETBACK ...
RIGHT NOW...

AH, I'M SAVED!!
WITH THIS, I CAN BUY CLOTHES TO WEAR ON MY NEXT BLIND DATE!!
THANKS, YAKO!!

GEEZ ..
FIRST OF ALL, I HAVE TO LOOK FOR SOME KIND OF PART-TIME JOB!!
FUNDS 2,001 YEN
30 YEN
IF I ASK SOMEONE WHO MIGHT KNOW...
OF A QUICK WAY TO EARN IT...


...OHO...
YOU WANT..
TO KNOW WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO GET A LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY RIGHT AWAY.

YES, OF COURSE WE KNOW HOW, MISS INVESTIGATOR.
AN EXCELLENT WAY FOR YOU TO TURN A PROFIT....!!
..AND SO
MY GRAND STRATEGY TO GET A PART-TIME JOB BEGAN.
ゴ
11忘却と再生(完)